

ZELINDA

An Excellent New

ROMANCE.

Translated from the *French* of
Monsieur De Scudery.

By T. D. Gent.

Nos hæc novimus esse nihil.

L O N D O N,

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THE
PREFACE.

THe World is grown
as unconscionable
to Us men of
Wit, and Parts,
as greedy House-Wives to poor
Costermongers; though they
have never so much Trust
for a little Money, they must
have a Cast into the Bargain;
a Prologue, or a Preface: and
they expect Wit in them too;
though there is none any
A 3 where

The Preface.

where else. This extortion was a while gratified, but the Nine Sisters are so beggered with the Maintenance of their Multiplicity of Gallants, that the insatiable Critick must take down-right Railing, for Wit: And I should but imitate my betters, if I rak'd in the honour'd ashes, and recited the little failings of my ingenious Predecessors, those renowned and never to be forgotten Authors of Amadis de Gaul, the Knight of the Oracle, Bevis of Southampton, and Unfortunate Jack. — Or I might with others tax the impudence of my Contemporary

The Preface.

temporary Scriblers, for pretending so audaciously to Wit and Poetry, when none has more confidence or less merit than my self.— No! I am for Peace and Policy; Controversies and Disputes among Divines, make Tub-Preachers and Atheists;— Enquiries, Answers, Replys and Rejoynders between Doctor. N. and Doctor. S. concerning each others Practice, exposed the failings of both to Vulgar contempt, and raised the reputation of Quacks and hedge Doctor: while Wil. Pen and the Anabaptist were burling Fire & Brimstone at one another in

The Preface.

Aldersgate-Street, Muckleton damned them both over a Pot of Ale. I say, let the green Faggot-sticks of Poetry cling together in the band of Amity, and in spite of the fierce Criticks puffing, they may Hiss, Pipe on, and be Courted, while he blows his Nails: But when the intestine fire of Envy dissolves the Union, by giving light and pleasure to others, they consume themselves. I think this is a good simile now.—— Let us conceal each others Faults, and be great; and let not him that is found out, and justly condemned, discover all the rest

The Preface.

rest to save himself, like a faint-hearted Padder.——

Why should the Taylor call the Miller a Thief.——

Book-Sellers too are grown such Saucy Masterly Companions, they do even what they please; my friend Mr. Bentley calls this Piece an excellent Romance; there I confess his Justice, and Ingenuity. But then he styles it a Translation, when (as Sancho Panca said in another Case) 'tis no more so than the Mother that bore me.—— Ingrateful to envy his friends Fame! Though Sir Martin fetch his Plot from Prester John

The Preface.

John and the Stingies, Warner will manage all.— But I write not for Glory, nor Self-Interest, nor to gratifie Kindness, nor Revenge; Now the impertinent Critical Reader will be ready to ask, for what then? For that and all other questions to my prejudice, I will borrow Mr. Bays's answer, and say, Because—
I gad Sir, I will not tell you.
— I desire to please but one person in the World, and (as one Dedicates his Labours and Heroes to Calista, another to Urania, &c.) at the feet of her my adored Celia, I lay all my Giants and
Mon-

The Preface.

*Monsters : to any other Cen-
surer I say,*

*Non vides id Manticæ
quod in tergo est.*

*But to her I Bow , her fa-
vour I Implore ; and to her
Sentence I submit, as becomes
her,*

*Admirer and hum-
ble Servant,*

T. D.

PRINTED AT

Errata

Errata.

PAGE 2. l. 15. for unwritting r. writing. p. 6
l. 21. for for, r. from. p. 7. l. last, for or, r. of
p. 18. l. 14. for I injured, r. I believe. p. 26. l. 18
for required, r. injured. p. 34. l. 8. for not unrea-
sonable, r. unreasonable. p. 39. l. 15. for with, r.
which. p. 44. l. 16. leave out this. p. 47. l. 20
for see, r. for. p. 49. l. 12. for resolved, r. reserved

ELIZABETH

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ZELINDA;

A

ROMANCE.



N the time when Spain was divided, not only amongst several Kings, but divers Nations; the Goths, the Moores, and the Spaniards, having each of them

a Share: Arragon was ruled by one, who in the midst of those Wars that troubled his Neighbours, had just abilities enough to keep his own Subjects in Peace; and was Famous only for being the Father of him, who is the Subject of this

B

History,

2 ZELINDA, a Romance.

History. His Wife after having brought him one Son, dyed: At the same time the Dutcheſs of *Barcellona*, a Young and Beautiful Princeſs, had newly loſt her Husband, though he was already old. His Council thought it very neceſſary he ſhould have more Heirs then one, for his own as well as his peoples Security, and therefore in behalf of all his Subjects, deſired him to chooſe a Wife to his liking, either in his own, or his Neighbours Dominions. The Beauty of this Dutcheſs was well-known further then *Arragon*; and beſides that in Policy, the occaſion was not to be let ſlip of unwriting to his Kingdom ſo conſiderable a Town as *Barcellona*; the Kings own inclination made him conceive that Policy the better. Though *Rofalava* had great Beauty, ſhe had yet more Wit than Beauty, ſo that being already abſolute; nothing leſs then a Crown could have tempted her to think of a ſecond Marriage; but having an only Daughter as well as he an only Son; She thought this Match would not make her ſelf only Queen of *Arragon*; but her Daughter too; and that ſhe could not be blamed,

if

ZELINDA, a Romance. 3

if being in the midst of ambitious Neigh-
 bours, she secured her self by a way so
 advantageous and Honourable. She
 easily then consented, instead of Dutcheß
 of *Barcellona*, to be called the Queen of
Arragon; where she was received with
 the usual joy and Magnificence upon such
 occasions: Being Young, Agreeable
 and Discreet, She soon governed her
 Husband, and consequently the King-
 dom. Now no business of Importance
 was done without her Consent, whose
 Satisfaction was the Kings only care; but
 this great authority she made use of most,
 in that design of Marrying her Daughter
 to the Prince, which she was much more
 desirous of, since she knew what kind of
 one he was like to be. *Alcidalis* was
 born so propitiously, and with so many
 natural advantages; That being a Kings
 Son, was the least considerable: He had
 Beauty which won the Hearts of all
 that saw him, a Wit in his very Child-
 hood not to be equalled, and a great-
 ness of Mind that made every body re-
 spect and fear him: The first years of
Alexander were not more Miraculous
 than his; and there was not a day in

4 ZELINDA, a Romance.

which he did not say, or do something to the astonishment of all about him. Those that pretended to skill in Physiognomy, by looking on his Face, foretold glorious and incredible actions; and they that took surer measures by those he had done already, foresaw the Crown of *Arragon* would prove too little for such a head: The Queen observed his Perfections better than any body, and therefore grew extreemly Fond of him, and impatient to bring about her Daughters happiness; which she thought consisted less in being Queen of *Arragon*, than Wife to *Alcidalis*. But how slightly soever we speak of Fortune, we must allow hers to be the only Wisdom, and consequently count our own but folly. Her designs are layed so far off, and carried on by ways so impossible to be perceived, that they never fail to succeed in spite of all our endeavours to the contrary; and she allows us sometimes to throw in her way our vain oppositions only to have the pleasure of making them so: Thus far she dallied with *Rosalva* but, as owing to be at length too hard for her, brings from another Country

young

ZELINDA, a Romance.

young Child, who (though both a stranger and an Orphan) was to ruine all the designs of this powerful and politick Queen. The Prince of *Tenara* of a family in *Calabria*, so Illustrious, as formerly to have given Kings to *Naples* and *Sicily*, had so considerable an Estate newly fallen to him in *Arragon*, that he resolved to take himself Possession of a Right which was a little disputed, and loving his Wife extreamly, who was as fond of an only Daughter they had about six years old, they could not think of parting; and therefore transported their whole Family to *Arragon*, where they were received by the King and Queen with all the civility and kindness due to Strangers of so great Merit and Quality. But soon after the Prince of *Tenara* grew sick of a disease that in a few dayes ended him, and left his afflicted wife in so despairing a condition, as made her not only willing, but likely to follow him. She received from the Queens kindness, (who began to love her,) all the comfort and assistance which either her afflictions, or affairs were capable of: The Queen had always liked her, but since this misfor-

6 ZELINDA, a Romance.

tune, Pity increasing her affection, she loved her tenderly. Fate seldom ravishing our joys from us, till we have set upon them the highest value, or rather we never prize them enough, till the danger of their being lost makes us do it too much: She lodged her in her own Palace, and took such care to be perpetually, with her that she seemed to miss a part of her self when they were asunder. However, all this indulgence of the Queens, (enough to have cured her of any other Disease) only allayed this, by making her bear it with less despair and impatience: And yet nevertheless, her Husbunds death, with the sad circumstances of time and place, was so great a blow, and made so deep an impression, that all the Queens care and kindness was unable to preserve her from a dangerous Sickness; which proceeded from want of Sleep and Nourishment. The Queens trouble was proportionable, who besides her Grief for the loss of such a friend, was not a little concern'd to see two such fatal accidents happen in her Dominions, to a Family newly come to dwell there. Physitians were conjured

to

ZELINDA, a Romance.

9

to use their utmost endeavours; but although they did so, her Disease was too strong for their strongest Remedies; and therefore her own Judgment as well as theirs, giving the fatal warning, she resolved to quit the World with as much tranquility, as that dear pledge she left in it would allow her, which sure could not be great, when she reflected upon the age and place she left her in; An Infant in a strangers Country: While *Camilla's* thoughts were thus sadly imployed, the Queen once asking her how she did? She gently look't up upon her, and taking her by the hand, kissed it several times before she was able to speak a word; but at last told her she was very sensible of the obligations she had to so indulgent a Queen that since she enquired of her health so kindly, she would presume to tell her, that though she knew death so near, it was not her greatest apprehension, and that her Daughters helpless condition was the reason why she could not but leave the World uncomfortably; and therefore beg'd leave to manage to the best her few remaining hours, by easing her self of a heavy burden, and powring out or

9 ZELINDA, a Romance.

her own breast into the Queens her dearest and most tender thoughts : She told her she should thank Heaven for giving her leave so soon to follow the Prince her Husband, if she were only sure the present she now made her would be acceptable ; a present of all she held dear and precious in the World : Then having dried her eyes of tears which those last words had drawn from her, she went on to assure her that amongst all her miseries, she could scarce think Fortune her enemy, that had brought her to the honour of such a Friendship, by a journey which she should think prosperous, were it not for her Lords death, though it proved her own too, since her kindness, was a Jewel she could not pay too dear for, and the only thing in the World she valued : But was more comforted with the hopes of her Daughters succeeding her in that, then in all the Fortunes she left her ; and therefore conjured her to look upon her always as the dying present of one she esteem'd, and not disdain to prove a Mother to the Daughter of a friend, whom she should think in that better provided for, then in the two
Prin-

ZELINDA, a Romance. 9

Principalities she was Heir to. And then her death would not be unwelcome, since not unhappy; for *Zelinda*, who by this change would have the advantage, of being Bred by a Queen every way so extraordinary: Having said this, she took from under her Pillow a little Box of Jewels, which for her Daughters sake she had always taken care of, and accordingly now put into the Queens hands. *Camilla's* afflicted condition, and the manner she expressed it in, were both so moving, that the Queen had not been able to refuse her request, though sure of its fatal consequence. She threw her Arms about her, and assured her she received her present with joy, and upon condition she should never revoke it, which she hoped her recovery would give her leisure, though not unkindness to do: That from that moment she reckoned her self to have two Daughters, between whom she should no more distinguish than Twins, of which she did not despair to have her a Witness: This cured *Camilla's* mind, though not her body, and made her life easier, though not longer; for two

10 ZELINDA, a Romance.

days after she left the World with that Cheerfulness which the Queens promises gave her; and the Queen capable of no comfort but the hopes of performing them. Thus we see *Zelinda* in less then three Months become a perfect Orphan, by burying both her Parents in their Graves, whose Inheritance they came to enjoy; We see her but six years old, in a strange Countrey, a thousand Miles from her own; and what is yet worse, in the absolute power of one who was in time to prove her greatest enemy, and the cause of all her Miseries. But none are so safe as those in the hands of Fortune, who never fails such as relie upon her either by choice or necessity: She took into her charge this distressed Orphan, and so ordered this disastrous beginning, as to make it a means of setting her in the Throne of two mighty Kingdoms. *Zelinda* was the most perfect creature Heaven ever made; her Person was as miraculous as her life, and this Story, though very natural in every other part, is incredible where it speaks of her. Since the Sun went round the World he never saw so exact a Beauty, and in
this

ZELINDA, a Romance. 11

this Beautiful body, there was a Wit above the imagination of ours, and such a one as no other body but hers had been worthy of: In the age when others scarce spake Words, she spoke Sense, and such as might have become any mouth. At her Birth all the Stars were agreed to contribute their best influences; And she appeared so Divine a thing, as one could not but imagine her fallen from Heaven by a Miracle: She was so naturally inclined to Good, that doing it, in her was scarce a Virtue; and it was not in her power, at least not without great self-denial, to avoid the practice of all things commendable; If we could look into the minds of the most extraordinary, we should not find them so faultless as their lives; and though their virtue at last gets the better, 'tis a victory like those in Civil Wars by which they must needs suffer, since their Resolutions are no more their own, then the inclinations that opposed them. But in this perfect Creature, Vertue reigned by Birth, and not by Conquest; and therefore she could never fail of doing well, while she did what she liked best: Besides these
per-

perfections which are to be described, those Names, Charms, and Secret graces, which make us love so often we know not why, *Zelinda* possess in such abundance; that she was the general inclination of every man and woman. All her motions were so agreeable, that no others Beauty was half so Charming, and in her gentle Voice there was something like Enchantment. Perhaps this is not all that might be, but 'tis certain, all she deserved cannot be express'd, and it will be easily much imagined that where there was so much, there must be a great deal more. And since, Madam, by this Description she appears so very like you, I had as good confess ingenuously, that in the story there were so many remarkable things of her, that though I minded it extremely, I could never have drawn so good a Picture if you had not sat before me. These were the Arms with which *Zelinda* was to be victorious, and there needed no other, since they were enough to Conquer *Alcidalis*, who would easily conquer the rest: She was received into Court with so general a joy, that it seemed an Omen of her future Greatness there, of which

ZELINDA, a Romance. 13

which she then took possession. The Queen who thought her self incapable of any comfort since her Mothers death, found the contrary whenever she was with her, and the Kings affections scarce knew a difference between her and his only Son.

Alcidatis and *Zelinda*, were of that Age in which Painters represent Cupids, and had all the agreeable Beauties, the greatest Masters in that Art could give them; Their Charms were so equally taking, though extreamly different, and their very childhood was so extraordinary, that none saw them without concluding them Born for one another, and each had been an unparallel'd wonder of the World, if it had not seen them together. Indeed though they had the hearts of all that saw them, they could never have been loved equally to their Merit by any but themselves; no Souls but their own being capable of a Passion great enough to deserve theirs. Accordingly the God of love, intending to make his power remarkable by shewing it in persons so extraordinary, settled it in their hearts so very early, that
the

14 ZELINDA, a Romance.

they felt it long before they knew it, and were not suffered to pass in quiet that first part of life, which Nature seems to allow undisturbed by Passions: Thus the first sight of *Zelinda* wrought the same effect upon *Alcidalis* which it was wont to do upon others, and he made some impression upon the heart of *Zelinda*, which she had never felt before. The Queen in pursuance of her great design, had bred up this Prince with all the artifice imaginable, that might incline him to love her Daughter. His first prattling was taken advantage of, that he might be used to call her his Mistress: he was dayly brought to see her, and those about him still took all occasions to commend before him either her Face or Fashion. But his inclinations were not the same with the Queens, he that had Softness and Complaisance for all the World, seemed to want it only for her Daughter, and was no where so constrained as in her company: Whether his high Spirit disdained to be thus given away without his own consent, or that his Stars, which brought him into the World, for *Zelinda* gave him a natural
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ZELINDA, a Romance. 15

aversion to whosoever would usurp that place they had designed her. But from the first moment she came to Court, and was by the Queen made her Daughters Companion, his mind appeared immediately changed, he was perpetually in the Dutchess's apartment, and no where so well pleased as there. Love to introduce himself easily into our souls, at first comes alwayes accompanied with Delight and Beauty; and makes no shew of violence or Cruelty, till he knows himself Master of the place, and too strongly fixed to fear being dispossessd. At first these young lovers felt his power in nothing, but an extream pleasure in seeing one another, and then such a sweetness mixt with joy, spread it self about their Countenance, that it was very visible their love made them appear more lovely. *Zelinda* had still then been like others of her age, but now began to be more lively; and *Alcidalis* when he saw her, was so gay and agreeable, that it look't as if he had reserved for her company some particular Grace, and the best of his humour. In that innocent age they enjoyed a pleasant tranquillity of mind
for

16 **ZELINDA, a Romance.**

for some Months, in which they were much happier, then in many more that followed.

But their passions increased daily with their understandings, and Love became so powerful, that he quickly made himself be both felt and understood; *Alcidalis* now grew more thoughtful then ordinary, and when *Zelinda* was absent, with an unusual sadness paid dear for the pleasure of having seen her, there was no sport for him in any diversions, but those he took with her, for seeing her was his only pleasure; or if any thing else was not indifferent to him, it was talking himself, and hearing others talk of her. That heart which even from his Childhood was set upon conquering the World, now hath no hopes nor thoughts but of gaining *Zelinda*; or if sometimes those of his former ambition return, it is but with design of rendring himself more worthy of her, by laying at her feet as many Crowns as she deserved. When ever she quitted the room, he was as if fallen from Heaven, and next to her company he loved none best. When alone (which for her
sake

ZELINDA, a Romance. 17

ake he was often) he was perpetually reflecting upon all her words and actions; and having considered them the several wayes, they were capable of being turned, drew from them accordingly either hopes or fears; then remembering his own expressions of kindness, was never satisfied with himself; sometimes he thought he was too timorous, sometimes too bold, and remained alwayes at last as much displeased with himself, as pleased with her: He begun by degrees to give over all those recreations he was wont to be fond of, Hunting, which he loved best, became a dull thing to him when she was not there, and if he still minded his Exercises, it was but to appear more agreeable to her: In a word, he considered *Zelinda* as if there had been no Body in the World besides.

Love on the other side had got into the heart of *Zelinda*, but had not made so great a progress; whether it were that fearing her high spirit, he durst not make himself known to her at first, or that she being the younger by two years, was less sensible of that passion:

passion: Yet she was not altogether unconcerned, for when ever she saw the young Prince, she had more care of her beauty and dress than ordinary; she loved the Countess the less, because she was designed for him, and every little respect that out of decency he paid her, took somewhat from the satisfaction of the fair *Zelinda*. Yet as she had a Soul, generous, resolute, and infinitely sensible, and by consequence capable of none but passions of the same nature, the merit of *Alcidalis* formed in it an affection as fair and perfect as it self.

Love between Persons of so eminent quality (like fire upon a Beacon) is so impossible to be concealed, that it is seen a great way off. The affections of *Alcidalis* and *Zelinda* was soon observed by all the World, and a great many perceived they were in Love one with another, before they discover'd it themselves. In the beginning when Childishness made their actions less observable, though they saw one another with great joy, no body thought there was any other Love between them, then that of the innocent diversions they took together.

But

But as by degrees *Zelinda* grew more serious, and *Alcidalis* began to shew himself master of a judgment fit to govern his Fathers Kingdom, and a courage capable of conquering any other. There was scarce any body in the whole Court, but judged their Souls to be united by so strong a passion, that it would be almost an equal difficulty to part'em from their bodies, or from each other. The Queen who was politick beyond her Sex, and designed nothing so much as marrying her Daughter to *Alcidalis*, was the earliest jealous of *Zelinda's* beauty, and consequently the first that took notice of this amour; But having a great confidence in her Interest, and more in her self, she thought they at last would be the only Sufferers, and feared no stubborn resistance from minds so tender.

In the mean time the beauty of *Zelinda* increased daily; and though it dawned but a while ago, now shone with such light and lustre, that she seemed to proclaim open War against the Queen, and all her designs. On the other side the young Prince sensible of his

20 ZELINDA, a Romance.

his birth and parts, began to be weary of living under the slavery of a Governor, and the conduct of a Woman. That heart great and Royal by Nature, when filled with Love, disdained any other Empire but *Zelinda's*; He began to carry his inclinations for her a little more openly, and favoured none but such as she recommended: He run at the Ring only in her colours, all his motto's spoke of her, and he was so proud of her Chains, that he hated all the World should not see them; There were none who in their hearts did not favour their affection. The Queen soon began to fear she had dallyed too long with a flame so fatal to all her purposes, & which now required her utmost care and endeavours to extinguish it: Yet she resolved to try violent remedies at last; and strove by all fair means to win upon the disposition of *Alcides*, which she perceived to grow less tractable to her every day than other: She used all the Arts she could to Eclipse the beauties of *Zelinda*, and to advance those of her own Daughter, whom she daily instructed, both what to say and do, never suffering her
to

to appear but with pompe and luster
 But *Zelinda* trusting still to Nature,
 whom she had been so much obliged to
 already, neglected by her self, was more
 admired by others, and without any
 Pearl but those of her teeth, or any Ru-
 bies but those of her lips, and such other
 Jewels as a waiting Woman Muse, dresses
 a Poetical Mistress in, out-shone the
 other, though adorned with all the
 glories of the *East*; so much the wealth
 that Heaven bestows, Ecclipses what-
 ever the Earth can lend her Favourites.

The Queen seeing the danger of their
 continuing any longer in the same place,
 and despairing of all other wayes to in-
 terrupt their increasing affection, re-
 solves to trye if absence (though it be
 the greatest torment of a settled) might
 not prove the cure of a growing incli-
 nation : And to that purpose, under pre-
 tence of some indisposition, desires leave
 of the King her Husband to pass two or
 three Months in *Catalonia*, and having
 gained his consent, she commanded all
 things to be in readiness for her journey,
 and said, she would have none attend her
 but the Ladies. This news extreamly
 fur

surprised our Lovers, who had never felt the sting, and been only acquainted with the sweets of Love, and except some few apprehensions for the future; which makes but slight impressions in minds so young, and full of confidence, their joy had been without trouble, and their inclination without the least check.

Alcidalis was most concerned, or at least could worst dissemble; there was nothing he would not have attempted to divert this journey, & a thousand extravagances past through his imagination about it, but seeing the time drawn on, and the Queens resolution invincible, he resolved, at least not to let *Zelinda* part without a full and open declaration of his passion for her, which till then, (though all his actions continually proclaimed to her) his words had never presumed to offer the least hint of: Whether it were that he wanted confidence, or thought it needless to declare a passion that none could ever hide. The last night being come, he went on the Queens side; where, after some time, he found an opportunity of entertaining *Zelinda* alone, it was the first minute that

ZELINDA, a Romance. 23

that ever *Alcides* knew what fear was. He attempted once or twice to discover his passion; but having not resolution enough to go on, was fain to turn his discourse to something else; and though at other times he was the gayest Man in the World; near *Zelinda* he was then the most perplext. But at last his heart beating, and his colour perpetually changing, he with a confused and trembling voyce, said: I do not doubt *Zelinda*; But that you know I love you but; how well, after I have said all I can, must still be left to your imagination: I tell you this, that if you find me kill'd by your absence, you may know the nature of your loss, though your Journey be compos'd but of a few dayes to the rest of the World; they will to me seem many Tears, and may perhaps outlast me. If you consider me and yourself, you will find the one too Charming to give a moderate affection, and the other incapable of a weak impression: From the first moment I saw you, my passion was at the same height; that time, or favours ever advanc't any other to: And since every Look, every Word; every Mo-

24 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Motion of yours has added somewhat to it; whilst I was a Child, I cou'd not express it to you; and since I never durst; and now I tremble only in saying, I adore you; and if I read not suddenly something favourable in your eyes for me, I shall soon want the power to let you know the greater part of that I have to say. At those words, she who had till then kept her eyes upon the ground, look't gently up at him; *Alcidalis* seem'd to have received a new life, and thus continued. Though inclination be but a blind guide; I must needs confess myself infinitely fortunate, in that which led me to adore the incomparable *Zelinda*; in whom I hourly discover such eminent perfections, as may change even an Aversion to its contrary: Judge then what a passion I must have conceived for her, since it was so advantageous born, and has been so continually improv'd: I confess freely, Humility is a vertue that you alone have made me acquainted with, I ever thought the whole world too narrow for me; but now I think my self, and that world infinitely below you; I know the la

thing

ZELIN DA, a Romance. 25

thing that you consider in me, is my Quality; If I possess any thing worthy of you, 'tis my heart, which I offer to you; and which I can say with confidence, to be Great and Generous enough to merit a place in yours. I would not praise it thus, were it any longer my own: But now I think advantageously of it; as I must ever do of all things that belong to you. It never had but two designs, whereof the first, and that which entertained its Childhood, was the Conquest of the World: But since it has been more aspiring, and more reasonable, it has desired Zelinda. Here he stopt, and waited for her answer, who in the condition she was in, had much a do to get out these few words. Sir, I am astonish'd at a discourse of this nature from you; and to find the eyes of the whole Court upon us, that I desire you will give till my return to make you an answer: Which I beg of you to believe, I wish may be very sudden: Every body observed something extraordinary between them, but the Queen especially, whom their Conversation

26 ZELINDA, a Romance.

conversation made very uneasy; she rose
 from her place, and Smiling upon Al-
 cidalis; say'd, Sir you entertain Ze-
 linda so seriously and with so much
 concern in your face, that I doubt
 you have had some little quarrel; if it
 be so, make me Judge, and i'll see her
 do you reason before she goes. Alcidalis
 having overcome the first difficulty of
 declaring his Passion to Zelinda, was
 impatient of being interrupted, so
 that without almost looking toward
 the Queen; he answered her carelessly
 Madam I injured Zelinda so just, that
 she had requir'd me, I would yet de-
 sire no Judge but her self, and what
 quarrel soever we have, I shall still
 have a worse to them that go about
 to part us. This sharp reply was ob-
 served by all the Court; but the Queen
 who was concerned at it, seemed less
 to mind it, and chang'd the Discourse.
 The next morning Zelinda was hur-
 ri'd away before Alcidalis could speak
 to her, and left him in the first grief
 affliction he ever knew; it was as
 great to her; and more insupport-
 able, in that she was forced to disga-

ZELINDA, a Romance. 27

her sense of it, and cover also with a cheerful Face a discontented Mind, hiding her misfortune in publick with as many Smiles, as she lamented it in private with Teares.

Of all the troubles that love brings with it, absence is one of the most sensible, there are some violent; some sharper pains, as that of jealousy, but none so hard to bear; and that so oppresses all sort of vigour.

She was no sooner gone, but Alcida-
die shut himself up in his Chamber, throw himself upon the Bed; where with a storm of Sighs, and a Sea of Tears, he grieved for her, rather as dead then Absent; not considering that love takes ever back with Interest the joyes he lends, and lets few of his Debtors rest so long as he had done him. Having continued seven or eight dayes without seeing any but the King, and him as seldom as his duty would permit, he resolved to follow Zelinda, and rather Perish in an attempt towards happiness, then tamely accept a certain death from her absence. He set
Hiberno one of the most famous Rivers

28 ZELINDA, a Romance.

of Spain, has past along the Walls of Saragosa (as if there were nothing else worthy of him in Arragon) he takes the way of Catalonia, where receiving in his passage many rivolets, to make his entry more stately into the Sea; he comes at last within half a League of Tortosa: The Countrey the waters is very Fruitful, and full of Trees, which is the more agreeable, in that the rest consists of dry naked Places, and Mountains scorcht up by the heat of the Sun, fifteen Leagues from his Mouth. He passes through a Valley two Leagues long, and proportionably broad on both sides, encompassed with Mountaines: Those of Catalonia keeps it from the North-Winds, so that it is always Green, and the Inhabitants never feel that Winter, which they see continually upon the neighbouring Hills: 'Twas in this Paradise that Zelinda past her Purgatory; and where the Pallace of the Queen stood; She alone was sad where all nature appeared to smile; and lost her lustre, which every thing abouts seem'd to have borrowed

ZELINDA, a Romance. 27

of her; The absence of *Aleidalis* troubled her continually, and her Melancholly was not confin'd to the present, but had likewise some presages of the ills to come, she saw her Fortune, and her self, and *Aleidalis* more dear then both, in the power of the Queen; She considered, that though the courage of the Prince was great, and his love greater, his Authority was yet but weak, That he would never be suffered to despise the Countrey of *Barcelona*, which fortune offered him so opportunely with the Queens Daughter: To Marry an Orphan, and a Stranger, who had no Fortune, no Support, but as far off, that he alone would not be able to resist the commands of the King, the good of the Kingdom, and the designs of the Queen, who governed both, that whilst they were Children, though all favour'd their affection, yet none approv'd their Marriage: That many look't upon her already as an enemy of the State, and the Torch that was sooner or later to set the whole Kingdom on a Flame; These, and such thoughts

30 ZELINDA, a Romance.

thoughts continually tormented her, and the further she look'd into the future, the more terrible her prospect grew. One day above the rest, as she was walking with the Queen in an extreme thick Wood, she slippt from the company, attended only with one Maid, 'twas no small ease to her to have the liberty of venting her Grief; which at other times she almost doubled by dissembling, and reflecting on various Accidents of her life, what she had already suffered, and what she was hourly threatned with: Her Melancholly possess'd her so entirely, that without thinking of the way she found her self by the Banks of Hebrons: The Charms of so delightful a place, the sweetness of the Air, and the pleasure she took in being alone, invited her to continue her walk; but fearing the Queen might wonder at her absence, she stop't when the noise of a Horne, which seem'd not to be far off, made her turn her head towards a Neighbouring Mountain, where she saw as she thought, two men clos'd and falling together from a Rock; but
upon

ZELINDA, a Romanet. 31

upon a second view, she found it was a Bear and a man; when immediately on the place from whence the other fell, she saw a young man very well Horst, leap down after them; the strength of the Horse, the address of the Horseman, or the Fortune of both, was such, that they took no hurt; he immediately kills the Bear at one stroke, with his Javelin, and saves his friend. This generous Action so surprized *Zelinda*, that she was almost angry that any but *Alcidalis* had done it. But he that was on Horseback came towards her, and past the River in a place where it was Fordable. She began to think it was *Alcidalis*, but not being perfectly assured, she askt her Woman if she knew that Gentleman; who answered: Madam, a far off we might have known him by his Action; but now we may see it is the Prince. As he came nearer, astonishment, fear, and joy, all at once, so seized *Zelinda*, that she could not readily find words to receive him with, The Prince who had a longer time to prepare himself, though not without

32 ZELINDA, a Romance.

some disorder, said ; Madam, you are not to wonder at any confidence , from a man that is already guilty of that , of having declared he loves you ; your last words gave me an impatiency, that turned every hour of your absence into an Age , and I had been unworthy of your return or answer , had I been able longer to expect either : What I said then , was but what I must always think , and if it were ever Criminal , am come to tell you, I am still Impenitent. Sir said she , if you will give me the leisure to make you the answer I promised you , when I left Saragosa : Then (finding her self Blush , and that he perceived it) she went on thus : This Colour that rises in my Face , proceeds rather from that I am going to say somewhat I never did before , then from a thought that I do therein any thing against my honour , I know not whether ; it be always a shame for a Maid to owne she loves , but if ever it were excusable, sure it is in me. I will not say that my Stars, or your eminent Qualities forc't me to it ; those are pretences that any one may use ; I will only urge such as are more peculiar to my case.

ZELINDA, a Romance. 33

case. I lov'd you Alcidalis before I knew it was a fault, and conceived an affection for you before I was capable, of those Laws that forbid it to our Sex. None can blame me for giving entrance to a Passion, which I seem'd rather to have found there, then received into my heart, and which has been so long here; that I can no more remember its Birth more then my own. The first inclination I ever had, was for you; and self love so early, and so natural in all the world, came to me later, then my friendship for Alcidalis; My Reason (which appeared not in a great while after) found it so well settled that it almost lookt like rebellion to attempt any thing against it; besides it seemed so innocent, and so just, that she rather endeavoured to strengthen, then oppose it, I say all this to excuse it both to you and myself, and to make you know that the soul the freest from weakness, and most reasonable in the World, might have been surpris'd, as mine was: If you are pleased, that I love you, thank not me, but Heaven that would have it so. If

34 ZELINDA, a Romance.

you are at all obliged to me, it is only for owning of it to you: Thus, though I had not the power of extinguishing my affection, I had certainly that of concealing it, I could have dissembled it all my life time, or as most of our Sex do, have shewn it you by little, and little; after having made you long desire it; were it not unreasonable or unworthy either of you or me: It would never be time to discover it; but on the contrary, if it be only such as Zelinda ought to have for Alcidalis. Why should I not from this Minute, give him the joy of knowing, and being assured of it. I tell you then I love you Alcidalis. and though I say it with Blushes, I do it without shame, I accept that heart which you gave me; which I esteem a Treasure far beyond the Crown you promised with it, I am pleas'd, to find all the qualities of your mind truly Royal; but I could wish your Birth were less so; for I fear Fortune to take that Crown away, which is the thing I least esteem in you, will rob me one day of all the rest. I see from this hour all the Misfortunes that threaten me, I know your love will cause the hatred of the Queen, but she that

bath

ZELINDA, a Romance. 35

bath to her own the heart of Alcidas can
 fear nothing: I will resist all with a re-
 solution that shall amaze you; and since
 Heaven decreed I should have affection,
 I will accompany it with such a Vertuous
 Constancy, that what is ordinarily re-
 procht in my Sex, shall be in me esteemed,
 and wondered at. Alcidas from the
 very first Minute she began, had
 still hearkened to her as one whose
 fate depended on her Discourse; find-
 ing it much more to his advantage than
 he durst have hoped, was so far from
 being able to express his joy, that he
 even wanted words for an acknow-
 ledgment: But after a while coming to
 himself, & finding her that followed out
 of sight, he put one knee on the ground;
 But as he began to speak, the Queen
 appeared near; the thicknes of the
 bushes having hid her approach, so that
 he arose again as soon as possible. Ze-
 linda was extremely troubled to be so
 unluckily surpris'd: And said, Sir, you
 will I fear have cause to repent this un-
 necessary humility. Madam, said he, I
 do already, but 'tis only that 'twas no
 earlier adrest: Whilst they were talk-
 ing

36 ZELINDA, a Romance.

ing the Queen advanc't, and *Alcidalis* coming up to her, she received him with a Countenance so gay, and full of satisfaction, that *Zelinda* her self could do no more. After the first Complements were over, the Prince having told her how the Chace bringing him within seven or eight Leagues, he thought himself obliged to kiss her hands; the Queen seemed to thank Fortune, for having conducted him so near her. But Sir, said she, I believe you are already paid for all the trouble you have given your self, for its to be imagined the favour that *Zelinda* granted you just now, was not inconsiderable: Since you thanked her upon your Knees for it, as we saw; truly it made me not know you at first, and I thought it had been some of your Servants, but I am very glad it was none but yourself who received that satisfaction: Pray let us know what it was, that we may partake in your Good-Fortune, and thank her with you. *Zelinda* did not grow red upon this, because she had continued so, since her discourse with *Alcidalis*, and fearing what the Queen said

ZELINDA, a Romance. 37

said, might surprize him; womens Wits being ever readiest on such occasions; she answered and said. *Madam, I was asking Alcidalis some News of Saracosa, he (who without doubt, was thinking of his Hunting) did not answer me; I then reproaching him with his heedlessness and Silence, he kneel'd to me of a suddain, and thought by other excess of Civility, to repair the neglect he had shew'd in not replying sooner to what I said. 'Twas very civil in him, said the Queen, and because you believe the Prince is thinking of his Hunting still, you have taken care to answer for him.* Zelinda seeing the Queen press her so hard quitted the Discourse. But *Alcidalis* perceiving the pain she was in, came to her assistance as she had done before to his, and began a relation of some little indisposition, the King had suffered in her absence, so that the Discourse was quite changed. The good humour Zelinda had put him into, made him entertain the Queen with infinite compliance, and address himself more then formerly to her Daughter. But our young Lovers were not cunning enough

nough to deceive her; she perceived the alteration and concluded the gayety of *Alcidalis*, and the respect he treated her Daughter with, to be but effects of some obliging assurance he had obtained from *Zelinda*, and from that moment took the resolution of parting them. The Prince went the next day to *Saragusa*, whether the Queen was forced to return eight dayes after, this absence was much more supportable to him then the other, for he had in it the comfort of knowing he was beloved by the person in the World he most esteem'd, they past some Months so well, and with such Tranquility, that *Alcidalis* could almost have forgot there was a happiness beyond it.

But there is a fatal point which nothing can ever pass, and fortune is sometimes as weary of the joyes of Lovers, as of the weight of Empires, the highest happiness has this fault that its then nearest its end. This was sure the only cause of all the misfortunes that persecuted so innocent an affection: The assurance that *Alcidalis* had of *Zelinda's* kindness, made him live with more discretion

ZELINDA, a Romance. 93

on, & more fear of displeasing the Queen, then ever he waited on her Daughter oftner, & convers'd less with *Zelinda*, she who from her Childhood had been ever serious, began to be more and more so, to see and speak to the Prince with great Caution and respect, and do all things that might make their affections less suspected; but this discretion, as it did ever between Lovers, come too late, the Queen who could not be deceived, with much care, secrecy and diligence, gave order for the executing a designe which she had in hand, as those which are in a place with their enemies; secretly undermine, for the most part fear least of all the ruine they must sink into, and live in security whilst men dig Graves under their feet; so our Lovers not imagining what was contriving against them, enjoyed a perfect Tranquility, and if they apprehended any mischief from the Queen, they neither apprehended it so great, so suddain, nor in that dreadful manner it was to befall them. Four Months after the Queen came back from *Catalonia*, she took an occasion

40 ZELINDA, a Romance.

in the beginning of the Spring to return, giving no notice of any such intention, till the day before. *Alcidalis* and *Zelinda* were so surpris'd, that they had scarce leasure to take leave one of the other, as the Prince was expressing to her, the Grief he left her with. Sir, said she, Remember you promised me, never to complain or fear the combination of the whole World against you, whilst I was for you: Minds assured one of another, like Martyrs in the midst of all their Sufferings, have still their thoughts fixt together with joy, on their reward to come, we shall meet again; and even in absence, our Memories shall make our past Satisfaction ever present to us, and our imagination shall entertain us with those to come: At that word she took a Ring from her fair hand; and bad him keep it with her heart. *Alcidalis* received it with all the joy his own was capable of, and was almost in love with the sad occasion; that drew so obliging a Discourse from her; then taking another of the same inestimable value, since it came from him, he gave it her with
the

ZELINDA, a Romance. 41

the same words, at which they parted with as much Grief as ever they had met with Joy : Tears stole down both their Faces, which both strove to hid from each other, as ashamed of such a vulgar mark of Sorrow in so Transcendant a concern. The Queen went away next Morning, and staying but one day at her own house, she pretended to have received some News from *Barcellona*, which obliged her to go thither, leaving her Daughter with a great part of her Train : She took only *Zelinda* with her, who imagined there was somewhat extraordinary in it ; but was not able to comprehend the reason ; so that knowing not what to fear, she feared every thing : The Queen spent the remainder of that day in seeing the Town, and the magnificent reception that was made for her ; the next morning she was told that a Vessel bearing her own Name, which she had built not long ago, was newly come into the Port, there was then an hundred Vessels in the Port of *Barcellona*, which so soon as the Queen appeared, saluted her with

42 ZELINDA, a Romance.

with all the Guns, so that for a while there was nothing to be seen but Fire and Smoak, the Ships being hid with a Cloud of their own making, they soon made themselves heard in a sound of Trumpets and Howboys: The Musick and all the Naval Pompe, together with the sight of that Element, which at first seises the Eyes and Minds of all the World with Admiration, could not in the least divert *Zelinda*; her heart presaged those ills at hand, she had so long foreseen. The Queen put her self into a Boat, to go and see this Vessel, and took *Zelinda* with her and some few Servants; She found in the Vessel, the Captain and his Wife with whom she shut her self up a while, which extreamly increas'd the jealousies of *Zelinda*, she lookt toward *Spain* with Tears in her Eyes and began to despair of seeing it again. An hour after, the Captain and his Wife came out of the Cabine, and told *Zelinda*, the Queen expected her there her Blood straight Froze in her Veins and she grew so Pale, that she seem'd rather her own Ghost then her self.

the

the Queen shutting the dore upon her, thus began. *Though it be a long time Zellinda since we lost both; you the best Mother in the world, and I the best Friend; Neither the affection that I had for her, nor the last words she recommended you to my care, with shall ever be forgotten: And had these former considerations been wanting, your Beauty, your Wit, and Discretion, would have since obliged me to it. Having Bread you up so long, and having found all these Qualities that gained her my affection, shewing in you with more Laster: I were unreasonable had I not the same Friendship for you, that I profess to her. Then say I have done more for you then ever she asks of me, she only desired me to love you as her Daughter, and I have loved you like my own; my Daughter lost the Title of an only Child from the day your Mother dyed. Since when I have considered you both as equally my own, and consequently none of your actions or concerns have been indifferent to me, so that you may imagine it is impossible but I must have taken notice of that passion which your Beauty (though without leave)*

44 ZELINDA, a Romance.

leave) has raised in the heart of Alcida-
lis: I have been no less then your self in
pain for the injury it might do you. You
know how little assurance there is in the
the words of men of his age and conditi-
on; both which gave him a license to de-
ceive and falsifie his Promises: Be your
own Judge, whether his affection can ever
be any advantage to you, you see how
many reasons oppose it, and should it ever
come into his power and yours, you are
too just, too grateful, to take him from
the Daughter of one you are so much
obliged to. I know your Vertue Ze-
linda, but as great as it is you cannot
binder the Prince from seeing you, nor
the World from Talking of it; your Ver-
tue may avoid the ill, but cannot escape
the noise; I know the prejudice such re-
ports are to those of your Sex, and par-
ticularly the discontent they give those of
your Scrupulous Vertue: I thought it
then my duty to lead you out of this dif-
ficulty, and that it was now high time
to fulfill the Promise I made your Mother.
The Prince of Tarentum is Wise, Vertu-
ous, and Valliant, one of the most con-
siderable Princes in Italy; He has by his
Letters

ZELINDA, a Romance. 45

Letters and Ambassadors, made address to me, that he might have you in Marriage; I would never acquaint you with particulars till all was settled, and the business ripe for Execution. I hear he expects suddainly to lay at your Feet his Person, and Dominions; the Captain of this Vessel left him fifteen days ago, and obliged himself in as many more to bring you to him, according to my Orders, Diligence and Secrecy for some reasons which I cannot yet let you know, are very important to this Affair; therefore you must go away immediately, and without any Train. I doubt not but this your good nature finds some trouble in this suddain parting, but though the Sea separate us for a while, nothing shall divide our affections; and I hope one day to see you with a Luster and Magnificence, which shall recompence the private condition you leave us in; and sure you ought to be glad, you are returning into a Countrey where you shall find your Fortune, your Friends, and the place of your Birth. But although it were not your inclination, it is enough that I will have it so: Besides the power
of

46 ZELINDA, a ROMANCE.

of a Queen; I claim also the interest of a Mother in you: Consent then willingly to a thing (which beside that it is a thing very just) is also no less necessary; in following readily what I counsel you and perhaps command you, you will see that Modesty that you owe to your self and a respect no less due to me: At these words she embrac'd her; pretending she would not take a formal leave of her lest it should too much soften both their hearts, she left the Cabin.

Sorrow, Rage, and Indignation, overwhelmed the mind of Zelinda, that for a while she was neither able to speak nor move, so that she remained in the condition the Queen left her in. Which yet was the happiest she found her self in for many Months, since the greatness and suddainness of her misfortune, took from her all sense of grief for the time. All our faculties are limited, that they are only capable of moderate Objects; too much light blinds us, a great noise makes us deaf, great Joys oppress our Senses. After having been without any sign of life for half an hour, her Spirits began to revive.

ZELINDA, a Romance. 47

turn, and with them her Fear, her Love, and all the passions of a troubled Mind; Her life came back to her in such a company that she hated it; her first thought was that of throwing her self at the Queens Feet, in hope to change her Cruel purpose; but she was gone, and the Ship so far advanc't, that one could hardly see the tops of Houses of *Barcelona*, she turned her eyes that way, and reflecting on what she left, and what she was going to: And having seriously weighed them a while, she turned her self towards those that accompanied her with a Countenance more cheerful and Serene then ordinary: and seeming to have received some satisfaction from the consolation they gave her: She went to Bed, and entreated them to leave her to her Rest: Fear and hopes are the two contrary winds of Souls, which never cease, and there is no tempest, whereof one or other of them is not the Cause: The present is but a point, and would be inconsiderable to us, if one or other of these passions did not give us some feeling of the future:

48 ZELINDA, a Romance.

ture: *Zelinda* thought that Fortune had plac't her below her own power of helping, or harming farther: And so was in that fatal Tranquility where in men neither fear nor hope, but expect the end of their Misfortune, with that of their lives, In all these Miseries, she had not that of trying several remedies, which is commonly the greatest pain of the unfortunate. Having well considered what she would do, and knowing it could not be long ere she should be freed from her afflictions, she pass'd the night in thinking how *Alcidaris* would receive the News of her loss: And though she was infinitely grieved to part with him, she had some satisfaction when she thought of the eminent proof it, would give him of her love, and resolution. The Captain of the Vessel (besides that she was then their charge) had a particular esteem of *Zelinda*; having known her at Court; as soon as they thought she was awake they went into her Chamber, and askt her what she would eat, she answered that not only she would not eat then, but that she

ZELINDA, a Romance. 49

she would never eat more; this reply amazed them extreamly; but they concluded she was relapsed into her former Melancholly, and a little Time, a proper Remedy, then any discourse. Three or four hours after, finding that she called no body, they returned, and employed all Prayers, and perswasions to make her receive a little Nourishment; to which she answered only with a Sullen silence, and a Behaviour so cold, and so-resolved, that she scarce seemed to have heard them: They left her this second time, but began to apprehend some Tragical event of this strange resolution. The next night they came again with a Niece of theirs, who was of the same age with *Zelinda*, and kneeling to her, begged her to have a care of her life, with as many Tears, and as much earnestness, as if they had askt their own of her, but all in vain; so that they retired, and left her to her self. Three dayes past thus whilst neither Prayers, Tears, or Perswasions, could prevail with *Zelinda* to speak one word; but the fourth day these good people

D

with

50 ZELINDA, a Romance.

with their Neece, came to make their last attempt: And desired her not to be her own Murderer, and commit Cruelty upon a Person so excellent as even the rudest Barbarians would both spare and Worship: Zelinda having hearkned a while to their Discourse, fetcht a deep Sigh, and rising from her Seat, shewed her self plain to them, which made them the better perceive the extremity she was in; in their Beautifullest Face in the World, they beheld a frightful Image of despair and approaching Death, and somewhat that gave at once horror and pitty; having looked round upon them all, she thus broke the Silence she so long had kept.

‘ My Friends, you ask of me a thing
 ‘ that only you can give me, you would
 ‘ have me live, and I would willingly
 ‘ obey; but have resolved never to
 ‘ come alive upon the Shore of *Italy*
 ‘ and here I swear it once more, to
 ‘ the Gods above, by Fire, and Light
 ‘ and to those below by the Ghosts of
 ‘ my Ancestors: My life is then no longer

ZELINDA, a Romance. 51

longer in my power, it now depends
on your carrying, or not carrying me
to *Italy*; be not then my Murtherers,
you to whose care I was committed.
The Duke of *Tarentum* expects me,
he has never seen me, you have here
your Neece of my Age and Stature,
and not unlike me in the Face; you
may put her in my place, and so at
once advance her Quality and For-
tune in the World, and save me from
the greatest Misfortune I know how
to fear; 'tis true you will deceive the
Duke in giving him another then was
promised him, but could you bring
me to him in the condition, and
weakness I am now, she whom I would
perswade you to give him, would
much better resemble that *Zelinda* he
has heard of. The Duke will sure be
happier in a Wife that will receive,
not meet his love, then in the forc't
possession of another, who upon se-
rious consideration has preferred her
grave to his Bed. But 'tis not me
he aims at, since he never saw me,
is the Dutchy of *Otrante* that he
desires, and I give it this minute to

50 ZELINDA, a Romance.

your Neece, with the Quality and
 Name of *Zelinda*, and call to Wit-
 ness the same Gods I have so late
 Sworn by, that none shall ever
 know the contrary from me, and
 that I never will repent of it. The
 Queen I know commanded you
 to carry me where he expects me, but
 you will do her better service in ob-
 serving her Will, than her Words; and
 can you think if she were here now
 and saw the condition I am now
 in, and knew the resolution I have now
 taken: That she had not rather
 see me safe in any part of the World
 than to send me dead into *Italy*;
 she command you to put me alive
 dead into the hands of the Prince of
Tarentum; do not you believe she
 signed my Happiness and Advancement
 in this Marriage, and that she
 had so great a care of my Fortune
 she would have a much greater care
 of my Life: When I am dead and
 the World shall reproach the Queen
 with this inhumane Cruelty,
 will not she say she was most Innocent
 in that she did not know my Mis-

my Aversion to the Match, and last of all my Desperate Resolution: May she not justly lay the whole fault on you, but what need you give her any Account at all; This Vessel is your own where ever Wind or Waves have passage you may go.

Then taking out a little Box the Queen had left her, where all the Jewels of her Mother were, she continued.

‘These Jewels are of infinite Value, the Queen cannot make you a greater Present; except she gives you *Barcelona*. Take them, and give me nothing in return, but my Life and Liberty; and since Liberty it self, is more then all the Riches of the World, I shall acknowledge my self still your Debtor; too many would kill the Innocent *Zelinda*, for half the Wealth I offer you to save her: I buy a good Virtuous Action of you, at a Price able to engage many men in the most Barbarous: If you make a scruple of disobeying the Queen, you

D 3

ought

ought to have an horror for the
 death of an Innocent; will you
 rather choose to destroy one of
 her Friends, then to break one of
 her commands; If you are afraid of
 her displeasure or wrong, you should
 consider, that shortly *Alcidalis* will
 be greater in *Arragon* then she, who
 will seek you all over the World, and
 bring you to a severe account for my
 Life, and Person: But if all these rea-
 sons should not prevaile, I conjure
 you by the Friendship you have profes-
 sed to me, by the compassion you shew-
 ed but now, by these Tears, and all
 that is dear to you, to deliver me
 from this Distraction I am in, your
 suddain resolution will double the
 Obligation, and incline me to believe
 that you were disposed to it more
 through your generous Pitty of my
 afflicted innocence, then any other
 consideration: But if neither my
 Prayers, nor Tears, nor Offers, can
 prevail with you: This Tongue that
 has pleaded my Cause so unsuccessful-
 ly, shall never speak again, and death
 in a short time will give me that Li-
 berty which you refuse.

Then

ZELINDA, a Romance. 55

Then she shewed them all her Jewels, which Charmed their Eyes, as much as her Discourses had done their Ears, so that they were no longer able to resist that double violence: The Captain was a Souldierly man, and very Brave, who had run through divers Fortunes without ever making his own: He thought now was the time or never, so that straight computing how many Vessels he might set out with a good part of that Wealth he saw; immediatly all *Zelinda* had said to him appeared unanswerable, he thought himself oblidge in Honour to relieve so Lovely and Injured a Princess: Besides, that he might one day restore her to *Aleidalis*, and receive from him as great a recompence, as he had done for her. He was a great while without speaking, so that *Zelinda* fearing his Silence, proceeded from his irresolution, doubled her intreaties, till at last he yielded, and vow'd to obey what ever she commanded: She engaged to go into a Monastery, and never to leave it without his consent: *Zelinda* was so over-

56 ZELINDA, a Romance.

joyed at this deliverance from the Prince of *Tarentum* that she a while forgot she was also separated from *Alcidasis*; this satisfaction soon restored her to Health and Beauty; but they let her appear as little as possible; and their Neece *Crimina* was every day instructed to Personate *Zelinda*; when she had her Lesson perfect, they Landed her in *Italy*; though *Zelinda* saw all things go very well, and that the Captain and his Wife were very zealous to have this design succeed; yet her heart began to beat when she saw Land, and was extream impatient, till *Crimina* was settled with the Duke, that she might be gone: Not to expose the false *Zelinda* at first, to the eyes of too many People, under the pretence of some small Indisposition, they made her to be carried in a Chair, into the very Pallace, and under the same pretence avoided seeing much Company, till she had confirmed herself in the Meen and Person of a Princess; so that she let none see her when she could well avoid it but the Duke; who though he did not find in her
that

ZELINDA, a Romance. 57

that Prodigious Beauty that had made so much noise, was very well Satisfied with her, and attributed her Alteration partly to her Indisposition, partly to her Voyage, and allowed somewhat for the Extravagance of Report, which is ever in Extreams. The Captain and his Wife having received very considerable Presents, took their leave of the Duke, and put to Sea, pretending an Impatience they had to give the Queen an account of their happy Voyage. *Zelinda* stayed all this while in the Vessel, and when she saw the Captain and his Wife A-board, prest them to Hoyer Saile, and shed as many Tears of Joy at her leaving *Italy*, as she had of Sorrow at her quitting *Spain*: But what avails it, the unhappy to escape one Misfortune; or what Sanctuary is there for these whom Fortune is resolved to Persecute; all the earth is subject to her Empire, but the Sea seems to be particularly under her Dominion, it is there she exercises her Power most Tyrannically; and most Treacherously, enriching her Favourites with the

58 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Spoiles of the Industrious : Yet as if there were nothing more to be feared, *Zelinda* thanked Heaven, and being on an Element the most deceitful of the four, among people she could expect nothing farther from, having nothing more to bribe them with. She imagined her self as secure as if she had been in a Pallace, and in the midst of her Friends : They made towards *Sardignia*, where the Captain designed to leave *Zelinda* ; with a Sister of his, till he could find an opportunity to restore her to *Alcidalis* ; they had Sailed three dayes with a Fair Wind, when two hours before the Sun set, he upon the Watch, from the top of the Mast, cryed he saw three Sailes making towards them ; Men live nowhere with so little security, as upon that Element, The Water, Earth, Air, and Fire, are all Enemies of those that are at Sea ; but Men most of all, and there is nothing that one Vessel apprehends so much, as the Meeting of another ; not long after they looked again, and they saw the Tops of three Sailes, which seemed
not

ZELINDA, a Romance. 59

not to be above three Leagues off; an hour after they came more in View, so that they knew them to be Pirates. Our Captain commanded his men to Hoist all their Sables and run for't: The next Morning as soon as it was broad day, they perceived the Pirates were aside of them, and within six Miles, so that if they gained upon them in the Morning proportionably to what they had done in the Night before, they judged that by Noon they would be within Cannon-Shot; those that were in the Vessel were a little apprehensive, the fearful took themselves to Crying and Howling, the most resolved, to their Arms: And the most reasonable, concluded, that neither the one nor other were to any great purpose; Though the Captain had experience enough to know that he could not Defend himself long, yet he chose rather to die like a man of Honour, then to yield and loose that Wealth he was solately and so luckily possess'd of. In this Alarum and general confusion, *Zelinda* alone was not astonisht, and whilst others feared for their

their

60 ZELINDA, a Romance.

their Goods, and their Liberties, she to whom all these things were indifferent; thought only for preserving her Honour: After having thoroughly considered the danger she was in, and the remedies it was capable of; She shut her self into her Chamber with the Captains Wife, where the first thing she did, was to throw all her Ornaments into the Sea, lest they should discover her, then cutting off the Finest Haire in the World, she Wept a while in the consideration of what Fortune had reduced her to; but at last she called for a Suit of the Clothes of the Captains, and Disguised her self and Sex. In the mean time the three Vessels which they knew belonged to the Coast of *Africa*, came within Cannon-Shot of them, and Discharged a Gun, to see if they would Strike Saile, but finding they did not, but pretended to defend themselves, when they came within convenient distance they gave them a Broad-Side: those of the Vessel did the same, but with a very different success, for doing no harm at all to the Enemies, they

ZELINDA, a Romance. 61

they had their Mast and two of their Sailes Shot in pieces, their Vessel extremely Shattered, and many of the Souldiers killed; at this noise *Zelinda* came out of her Chamber, and put her self among the foremost, hoping that she should by that means either be killed the sooner, or disguise her self the better, the Combate was so unequal that it was impossible it should last long, and all the resistance they were able to make, could not hinder the Pirates from Boarding the Vessel; where after they had killed ten or twelve of the most Resolute, and amongst the rest the Captain, the Seamen threw down their Arms, and yielded to Mercy The Captain of these Vessels was of the Kingdom of *Barca*, the people of it are very Barbarous, they drive no Trade at all, what we call Robbing, they call Gaining from the Enemy, and whatever they purchase with their Blood, they count still the bravest, and most Honestly gotten; and would be ashamed of any other Title to it. This man being the most powerful in his Country,

62 ZELINDA, a Romance.

try, Valliant and Skilfull in Sea Affairs, was a long time the Terrour of all the Coasts of *Greece* and *Italy*, he had Mercy, and Generosity more then his Country, or indeed his Profession allowed of, naturally and without knowing they were Vertues: As there are in the North, some Veins of Gold as perfect as those in the Indies, though not in so great quantity. So nature in all Climates does produce now and then an extraordinary Genius, which she instructs and cultivates her self, and indues with all imaginable perfection without help of Art. As *Orcantes* (for so this Pyrate was called) was looking over his Captives and the Prize he had gotten. The Majesty and Beauty that shined in *Zelinda's* Face, compelled him to ask her who she was, she answered she was a *Spaniard*, and her name was *Zelidan*, Nephew to the Captain of that Vessel, he had taken, that she wisht her self with him, and esteemed him happy to have preserved his Liberty with the loss of his Life: She said this with a meen worthy of a better

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ZELINDA, a Romance. 63

Fortune, and with an assurance more usual in the Conquerours than the vanquisht, her Constancy, her Courage, prevailed more on the Generous Disposition of the Captain, than all the mean Submission of the rest, he was charmed with the Greatness of her Mind, and Beauty of her Person, and desired her to be of good Courage, since she was fallen into the hands of one, who made Slaves of none but such as deserved to be so. That for himself he sought Glory more than Gain upon the Sea, and took more pleasure to give Liberty, than to make Slaves. That he left the rest of the Prize to his Souldiers, and desired only *Zelidan* for himself, and that the first brave Action they were in, should be his Ransome. *And Sir,* said he, *If the advantages of your Mind, answer those of your Person, I shall soon be more a Captive to your Worth, than you are to my Arms.* *Zelinda*, who expected nothing of this nature from a Barbarian, and a Pyrate, was almost as much amazed as he was pleased; and the loss of Liberty, as a Slave to *Orantes*,
was

64 ZELINDA, a Romance.

was so much more supportable then it would have been to her, as Wife to the Prince of *Tarentum*, that she began to bear it with some sort of satisfaction. She thought there was no misfortune but to be given to another, nor no Happiness but to be Married to *Alcidalis*: All things else were indifferent to her. And so her great Soul worthy of the Empire of the World, submitted to her present condition with less concern then the meanest Seaman that was taken with her. But *Zelidon* for so we must hereafter call her, besides that Heaven had given her all Advantagious Qualities, both of Mind and Body, was indued with all those Graces, which almost insensibly create Love & Respect, born to command and not to obey: She soon got the ascendant over her new Master, the Slaves, Souldiers, Seamen, all loved her so well, that she Governed absolutely, in the Vessel where she was Prisoner; seeing the kindness *Orantes* had for her, she judged that it would turn to Love, if once she were discovered; and then his in-
cli-

ZELINDA, a Romance. 65

clination (which elle would be of great advantage to her) would be infallibly her ruine: She took all the care imaginable to conceal her self continually exercising her Courage, and all these Qualities that her Sex is least capable of. They past all that Summer without ever landing, but to take in Fresh-Water, in which time the new *Zelidan* signalized himself on all occasions: There was no Vessel taken where he was not the first Aboard; so that the Pirate found no difficulty to pay him the fullest esteem and friendship he had promised: The Winter coming on, and the Sea growing fuller of fears, then hopes even for Pyrates themselves, they laid up their Vessel in the first Port of *Barca*: *Orantes* gave *Zelidan* his Liberty with a great many Complements, and professions of perpetual Friendship: He desired to bring him to Court, saying he would shew the King the Richest Prize he ever took upon the Sea. In the mean while *Alcidalis* who was informed of the Queens whole proceeding, believed *Zelinda* in the Arms of the Prince of *Tarentum*,

66 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Tarentum, and thought her capable though not of loving, yet of suffering another, the generous resolution of starving her self to death, which *Zelinda* was ready to have executed, *Alcidalis* was not able to imagine: But after he had given some time to a helpless and a most speechless sorrow, he lost all fear, all respect, together with his hope, and had no other thought but that of Revenging himself immediately upon the Queen, or of forcing *Zelinda* from the Arms of the Prince of *Tarentum*. But at last his Body being unequal to the violent Agitations of his Mind, he fell into a Feavour, accompanied with such Raving Fits, as all that knew their true cause, had reason to believe he would never outlive them; he was in a short time without any strength, and which was happiest for him without any thought at all: thus Fortune can mock at all our Purposes, and confine him a whole Month to his Chamber; Who threatned straight to search the whole World for *Zelinda*. A Feavour, Love, and Jealousy, which are
cer-

certainly the greatest ills of Mind and Body, rag'd at once in *Alcidalis*, every one of them with their most desperate Circumstances: So that each seem'd incurable and altogether unsupportable: But at length contrary to all expectation he recovered, but with his Health, his Grief, his Love, and all cares returned; so that without staying till he was perfectly recovered, or making any one acquainted with his designe, he stole out of *Saragosa*, and going a by way to the Kingdom of *Valentia*, he embark'd at the nearest Port, and pass'd over into *Italy*: Where he hoped to see *Zelinda*, which expectation was all the Happiness he was capable of in her absence; The false *Zelinda* had better Fortune than the true one, and her designs better success, she had, as observ'd, a moderate Beauty, and that kind of understanding that gives us cunning and subtilty for the Affairs of the World, seeing what a dangerous business she had undertaken, she endeavour'd all she could to gaine the Prince her Husbands Heart, and so fortifie her self
 against

against all accidents : He was of those years wherein men begin to feel the approaches of Old Age , and to be somewhat less confident of themselves, and where the most reasonable and best deserving cannot hope to be loved by Women, but out of gratitude or duty : So that the Beauty , Conduct , and Kindness , of his Young Wife , gained him intirely : As we are never so fond of Flowers, as in the beginning of the Spring , or towards the end of Autumne ; the first for their Novelty, and the others because we think we shall see them no more : So the pleasures of love are at no time so dear to us , as in the beginning of our Youth , and the approaches of our Age : It is so great and unexpected a Happiness for an Old Man to be loved , that there is no folly they are not capable of in that condition , but the knowledge they have of themselves , scarce suffers them ever to be firmly perswaded of it. The Duke was no sooner in love, but he became Jealous ; That passion which in other Countries is an accidental effect of love, is there inseperable from

ZELINDA, a Romance. 69

from its they conclude there cannot be a great desire, without a great fear. Love and Jealousy are Twins with them, and ever born together. Were it then the excess of kindness, the Air of his Countrey, or his own natural distrust, or that he had heard somewhat concerning *Alcidalis*, that had caused that effect; his Jealousy arrived to that height, that he never thought her safe but when she was with him, and even then had scarce patience she should be seen by any eyes but his own. She who for another reason cared not to be seen much, easily complied with his Humour, and told him she loved all the effects of his Passion equally, that his very fears were agreeable to her since they were marks of his Love: That her greatest content was to procure his, that in having him, she thought she had all the World, and cared not if she was shut up for ever on these Terms. He receives these offers of hers with great joy, and made use of the Liberty she gave him to take away all hers, so that cutting off dayly somewhat of her Attendants, and of a great

70 ZELINDA, a Romance.

great Pallace, which before she had the freedom of, he reduced her to four or five Rooms, and a few necessary Servants, as the Duke gave her many marks of his Jealousy, he also gave her some of his Love. And strove to make her Prison as agreeable to her as possible, there was no part of the World that did not contribute its greatest varieties to her Closets. Art and nature seemed to strive which should most adorne her Retirement. And she saw all things she could wish, but men, and those she saw only out her Windows. The Duke bought the Lustiest and Handsomest Slaves that could be found which (to divert the Malancholy which must needs attend such a solitude) he caused to be taught to Fence, Ride, run at the Ring, and all the exercises of the Nobility, by the best Masters of *Italy*; these were called the Slaves of the Dutchess, thrice a Week they were brought into a Court all strewd with Sand, where they did all their Exercises: The Duke had two designs in this, one of diverting his Dutchess, and the other of making

ZELINDA, a Romance. 71

making her despise all men; by letting her see in Slaves, the same Qualities which are admired in people of the highest Birth, and most advantageous Education. *Alcidalis* at his coming into *Italy*, was informed of all this, and judged that no Quality would so soon introduce him, as that of a Slave to the Dutchess; he communicated his designs to his Gentleman, who had always attended him; who Disguising himself like a Merchant, went to the Officers that had the Government of the Slaves, and exposed to sale *Alcidalis*; who having all the Qualities necessary in a very eminent degree; was soon Bought, and so one of the greatest and most accomplisht men in the World, became a Slave: A while he was fain to learn of them he might have taught; and seeming to learn every day somewhat of his exercises; he in a short time so advanced, that he was admired of all the World; if he were challenged to run, Wrestle, Fence, or Ride, he was so constantly successful, that at last he seemed but to be invited to so many Victories: there

72 ZELINDA, a Romance.

There was no Prize that any one, or number of his Companions, durst dispute with him: Yet among all the commendations he obtained, he felt a secret shame in himself, that his Victories were gained only over a few Slaves, for he had a heart as Generous as that Prince, who scorned to Run with any but Kings, though he did all things with an incomparable Grace, it was with so much neglect and contempt of what he was about, that it was no hard matter to see his thoughts were somewhere else. When ever he entered the Lists, for the Divertisement of the Dutchess, he came the first, and went away the last. In all his exercises he had his Eyes and Heart fixt upon the Window, he thought she stood at. For the Jealous Duke had so contrived it; that she could see without being seen: What Mistakes and Errors are not men capable of, the most Faithful Lover upon earth adores now a Beauty he has never seen, Sighs before her, and gives her at his eyes his heart: And being born a Slave to *Zelinda*, has blindly

sole

ZELINDA, a Romance. 73

fold himself to another : *Alcidalis* who had been remarkable amongst the most accomplisht Princes , was easily so among these Slaves. The first day she saw him, his Beauty, and the Graces that accompanied all his Actions , attracted the eyes of the Dutchess ; afterward he gained her esteem , and then her admiration ; and having considered how thoroughly she thought she saw in his Mine and Courage, somewhat worthy of a Nobler destiny , and much above his present Fortune : She took notice how fixtly he looked up at her Window, of the Paleness and Sadness of his Face, which all the applauses continually given him were never able to change for a Minute : All this together gave her at first Pity, then Curiosity, and at last Love.

One Night as this Illustrious Slave went out of the Palace of the Duke, in a dark Passage he felt himself pulled by one, whom by that light he could only perceive to be a Woman ; who taking him aside, said, *Clariantes*,
E (for

74 ZELINDA, a Romance.

(for that was the name he chose to be called by in this Disguise) If you are as truly Brave as you appear, come to morrow morning at two a Clock to the foot of the Greek-Tower, there you shall be put in a way of being the Happiest man living: She said this in great haste, and left him, without staying for his answer. But this was enough to set his Thoughts a work: Since Fortune began to persecute his love, this seem'd to him the first Moment she began to remit of her usual Rigour; he made no question but this Message came from Zelinda, since to make him Happy was in the power of none but her: Yet whether it be that men so extraordinary hold some little intelligence with their destiny, or that the unfortunate entertain hope but Coldly, which has so oft deceiv'd them: he durst not be confident of his good Fortune, but expected the hour she had assign'd him, successively agitated by Impatience, Hope, and Fear. The time so much longed for being come, as soon as it was dark he came to the foot of the

ZELINDA, a Romance. 75

the Tower, which was an old Building which entered some fifty Foot into the Sea; *Alcidalis* came in a small Fisher Boat, which having fastned to the Wall, he attended the success of his Adventure an hour before any body came to him: His Mind all the while no less toss'd between Hope and Fear, then the small Vessel he was in by the Waves of the Sea: Passions which though they are very contrary, are very often together; the Wind was so high, that there was small hope the Rope that held the Boat would endure much longer, so that every Minute he imagined it would break; at last, as he began to despair of his expected Happiness, and entertain the dismalst thoughts the Night, the Sea, and rising Storm could furnish him with; he heard a noise from the top of the Tower, which he answered to, and immediatly something fell into his Boat, which he soon perceived to be a Ladder of Rope: *Alcidalis* then gave himself entirely into the Arms of a deceitful hope, and was confident he should once more behold his unfor-

76 ZELINDA, a Romance.

fortunate *Zelinda* : which made him
 flight all dangers , and run up the
 Ladder as fast as he could have done
 the easiest Stairs in the World ; when
 he was at the top , he found a Window
 open , and a Woman who gave him
 her Hand , and without saying any
 thing , brought him through a great
 many turnings into a Closet, the Rich-
 liest Furnisht that ever he had seen,
 lighted with three Lamps of Gold : He
 perceived then she was the same Wo-
 man had spoke to him before in the dark
 Passage ; then putting all things to-
 gether, he concluded she came from
Zelinda , and had now no fear but
 that of not staying long enough with
 her : He had a thousand several and
 some contrary Passions at once in his
 Mind , which cannot be represented
 on Paper , since the Soul of man , and
 amongst them , only the Lovers , is
 capable of such confusion : He was for
 an hour in the stillest Silence imagi-
 nable, but at last he heard, as he thought
 the tread of a Woman , and the noise
 of a Key , to which turning his Head
 about , he saw a Door open , and the
 same

ZELINDA, a Romance. 77

same person enter who gave him her
 hand at the Window; who Smiling
 upon him, said, *Clariantes*, I do not
 doubt but you will pardon me for ha-
 ving made you wait thus long, and confess
 the Honour you are going to receive, an
 abundant recompence for all you have suf-
 fered. The Prince thanked her; and de-
 sired she would inform him a little what
 this Honour was she meant; She paused a
 while, and then replied, *Were I not by the*
Greatness of your Meen and Courage, suf-
ficiently assured of that of your Mind,
I should not venture to let you know your
good Fortune thus at once, lest excess
of joy should overpower your Spirits;
but it is to be supposed a man of your
Merit can never be surprized at his good
Fortune, whatever it be; know then,
that you are now in Zelinda's Closet, and
shall immediatly be brought into her
Chamber; the Dutchess has taken notice
of your good Qualities, and finding no-
thing amiss in you but your Fortune,
is resolved to better that herself; and to
that end desires your acquaintance: On
your part see you make good use of this
occasion, and shew as much Discretion

78 ZELINDA, a Romance.

and Conduct hereafter, as you have hitherto shewn Courage and Generosity. Having said this, she led him into the Dutcheffes Chamber. How strangely are our Minds wrought upon? *Alcidalis*, whom death it self would not have discompos'd, trembles in a place where he knew there were none but Women; that heart which would have encountered a world of Enemies without fear, melts at the imaginary approach of the only person upon earth he loves, and knows himself to be beloved by: The Chamber had just the light that such affairs required, which was not much; the shame and disorder of a Young woman unpractis'd in the Thefts of Love, made her conceal herself so much, that had *Alcidalis* been less prepossess'd then indeed he was, he could not easily have found his mistake: He immediately fell upon his Knees to her, and after a few words confusedly uttered, and worse followed, he stopt in the middle of his Discourse; Amazement, Joy, and Love seized him so in an instant, that half beside-himself he let fall his head upon

ZELINDA, a Romance. 79

the Bed of the young Princess, who lifting it up with her hand, brought him a little to himself; but a consciousness of his disorder kept him still in it, so that he could only say at last,

' *Zelinda*, Heaven has had some pity
' on the unhappy *Alcidalis*, and once
' before I die given me a sight of those
' perfections I would have dyed to
' have seen; my love is still the same,
' and I am not the less yours for your
' being anothers; the Tyranny of Fate
' may force our Persons out of our own
' disposal, but hearts are given by them-
' selves alone, and sure what is un-
' justly taken, we justly may recover.

Here his Sighs interrupted his Dis-
course, and as he would have con-
tinued it, they heard a great noise in the
Palace, which she that was intrusted
came out of Breath to tell them it
was the Duke, and that he was al-
ready on the Dutchess Side: Who,
good man, far from thinking what had
happened, had designed to spend two

80 ZELINDA, a Romance.

or three days in Hunting; but whether it were Love, or Jealousie, or that he thought, that for being less expected he should be the more welcome to the Dutchess; he returned the very day, and the first thing he did, came to visit her. I hate him for coming so unseasonably; for I would fain have seen what reply she would have found to a Discourse she so little comprehended, and less expected; and had I made the Story, *Alcidalis* should have made him — what the Dutchess pleased. But as things were; there was no staying any longer, and the Lady that brought him, in all haste conducted him to the same Window he came in ^{by} it. Seeing and detesting this last Treachery of Fortune, he had more mind to precipitate himself, then to make use of his Ladder of Ropes, and had done it, but for the hope of Climbing up by it another time. The sweetness of that thought perswaded him to live a little longer, but with many rash Vows and deep Imprecations, not to survive such another Jilting trick; and brought him safe,
and

ZELINDA, a Romance. 81

and unobserved to his Lodging; for the Dukes unexpected arrival had raised all from sleep, and put the Court in such Confusion, that they ran against each other as if it had been at blind-mans-Buffe: (a Recreation much used at Courts in that Age, and not yet wholly disesteem'd.) To save the trouble of making doleful Speeches, and avoid the danger of speaking untruths, or worse then he did, I will not presume to relate exactly how often *Alcidalis* Sighed, Tumbled, and Rouled in his Bed, sometimes Rayling at, and sometimes wheadling Fortune; or whether he tore his lovely Hair, which in a thousand Curls adorned his spreading Shoulders; for he being then under the qualification of a Slave, had no attending Esquire to hear and discover his Soliloquies. But let the ingenious Reader imagine, after a long and passionate Courtship of so Beautiful a Lady as *Zelinda*, if he was Kneeling by her Bed, (*the Altar of Love*) pressing her soft Palm, laying his amorous head on her panting Breast, in the height of extasie; just

82 ZELINDA, a Romance.

at the Minute of fruition, (for doubtless they had been naught together, if the Dukes coming had not prevented them) how it would stir him to be disappointed : And then let him please his fancy with Speeches suitable to his own Humour.—— Here some Romantick Zealots may perhaps accuse me of a gross mistake, in supposing a Prince so sublimely Virtuous as *Alcidalis* is Characteriz'd, could be guilty of the common Failings of meaner persons : But I refer myself to the Impartial Judgement of this ripe-witted Age, whether that Lover is not most perfect, whose Passion has no Limits (maugre the Cruel examples of *Amadis de Gaul*, that flower of Chivalry, and all the Rabble of obsolete Heroes) but in persuance of its design, which is enjoyment one way or other, whatever is pretended to the contrary ; tramples all danger, or reason under Foot ; I'll believe it granted, and proceed to my Story.—— The same excess of kindness, or Jealousie rather, which hurried the Old Duke from his Countrey diversions, hastened him to the

ZELINDA, a Romance. 83

the Chamber of his Trembling Dutchess; who received him with most extraordinary marks of unusual Tenderness, the better to palliate her Errour; often renewing her strict Embraces, with a melting voice, she said,

‘My Dearest Lord! The only joy of my Life! Are you well? Are you in my Arms? Oh speak! and confirm me that I am not yet in a Dream——

‘No, Dear Madam! *answered the overjoyed Duke*, it is no Dream; or if it be, it is so ravishing to me, that I could be contented it should never end: But what, my dear Zelinda, has so much discomposed you? Your heart pants and struggles, as if it were weary of its Seat, and sought for shelter in my Breast——

‘Oh Sir, *she replied*, receive it kindly then! and let it ever dwell there, that it may no more be frightened with your absence. Your coming wakened me from a dreadful Dream; a great
‘Buck,

84 ZELINDA, a Romance.

' Buck, me-thought, assaulted you in a
 ' dark Thicket, and was just ready to
 ' goar your Majestick forehead with his
 ' Horns; Ha! Horns, cryed the Duke,
 ' (starting as if his evil Genius had ap-
 ' peared) Heaven avert the Omen.
 ' If your presence had not disturbed
 ' my busie Fancy, certainly the Dream
 ' had gone one, says she, and I had
 ' dyed with apprehension——

' Be comforted, Madam! *says the re-*
 ' *collected Duke*, Dreams are but faint
 ' reflections of those last thoughts, which
 ' employed the imagination when sleep
 ' surprized the Active Senses; so when
 ' the Glorious Sun forsakes our Hemisphere,
 ' a Rosie glimmering light still
 ' guilds the Clouds.

' Ah Sir! I will never consent that
 ' you shall leave my Arms, *cryed the pa-*
 ' *sionate Dutchess*, for if your pre-
 ' cious life should be destroyed, how
 ' wretched would the unfortunate Ze-
 ' linda be!

Repeating her Caresses with su-

ZELINDA, a Romance. 85

exquisite Artifice, and seeming Fondness, that the Duke, believing himself most egregiously Happy in a Kind and Faithful Spouse, when her heart was all that time inventing new Curses for him, committed all his cares to a sound sleep; which Age, and a little forc'd exercise to retaliate his Ladies kindness, soon brought upon him.

The next day was solemniz'd with more then usual Sports, where *Alcidalis*, swelled with joyful hopes, performed such extravagant Deeds of Agility and Strength, as I dare not particularize, lest the incredulous Reader should distrust the truth of all the rest. The Duke unable to make good returns of Love two nights together, shut up his Exchequer, and as an uncivil Debtor that cannot Pay, avoids the sight of his obliging Creditor; he stole away as abruptly to his Country-House in the Evening, as he had come from thence the Night-before; leaving a Letter to inform and comfort the poor Dutchess, with plentiful assurances of a speedy return

86 ZELINDA, a Romance.

turn; adding, that he feared to bid her Farewell, lest her Grief should betray him to a weakness misbecoming a Prince. She had observed his close manner of retiring, and gladly gave him opportunity to Cheat himself, while he thought to deceive her: but could not read his Consolatory Epistle, without downright Laughing—— Old Age, Flannell, and Brandy, said she, farewell! and immediately calling *Florella*, (for that was the Lady of her intrigue) sent her to *Clariantes*; concealing still from her, that it was the Prince *Alcidalis*, (whose Name and Actions the Court was well acquainted with) and resolving to continue his mistake of her for the true *Zelinda*; ordered, that when he came, there should be no light at all in her Chamber. *Florella* found him walking, where he had received the former Summons, and failed not to deliver the second Challenge; nor he to repair immediately to the place appointed. Now Fortune seemed to fix her unsteady Wheel; Smooth and Gentle, as a Frozen River, did the
Sea

ZELINDA, a Romance. 87

Sea appear; and the amicable Moon, an indulgent cherisher of all Exploits of Love and Art, (like a well-wishing Procurer with a dark Lanthorn) from behind a fable Cloud, displayed just light enough to lead him on, and not betray him. Swift as a sealed Dove, and as blind too with his Passion, he mounted to his Heaven, the Window, and in one moment more prostrated himself at the Shrine, the Bed of his Saint: Like a gay plum'd Phoenix, wrapped in perfumes, and languishing in Flames of Love, she lay; yet trembled like a new year'd Lamb upon a sheet of Snow, with eagerness of fierce desire. After his first assault of Kisses on her melting Hand, his Tongue got liberty to cry, *O Ye Gods ! do I again behold the fair Zelinda ?* (a very pertinent Question, for it is to be remembered there was no Light) then overcome with extalies of joy, his head sunk gently on her downy Breasts, which proudly swelled to welcom so desired a Guest, and meet his burning Kisses; while with her tender Arms, more White then Alpine Snow, she
kindly

88 ZELINDA, a Romance.

kindly pressed him closer ! *Oh my ador'd Zelinda, (he panting cryed) to which she Ecchoed softly with a Sigh, Oh my much loved Alcidalis ! I had been too happy had I been only thine.*—— Here their Speech was Smothered with reiterated Kisses and Embraces, till urged by opportunity, and stimulated with greatness of delight, with a respective Boldness he continued—— *Why was the unfortunate Alcidalis permitted to see such dazzling Glories, and hope for such unexpressible bliss, as Gods would quit again their Heaven for,*—— and not—— *En--j—— !* There with a Balmy Kiss, she put a period to his Words; and with a pretty kind of obliging violence, she checked his wandering hands, while he pursued his purpose thus—— *If my adored Princess thinks my Sufferings yet too inconsiderable to merit her esteem, if quitting the powerful Charms of approaching Sovereignty, and forsaking an indulgent dying Father, to wear the despicable Garb, and do the mean Offices of Common Slavery, deserve no Pity; in-*
vent

ZELINDA, a Romance. 89

went new Chains, Tortures, Deaths,
 and see how readily I will imbrace them
 for Zelinda's sake—— Too much, too
 much already, replied the cunning
 yielding Dutchess, has my beloved
 Prince endured—— But—— But!—— But
 what! cryed the impatient Alcida-
 lis—— But you are anothers, you perhaps
 would say: Ah Madam! were you not
 first mine? were you not Basely, Treache-
 rously Ravished from my Arms? And
 if a Thief has Robbed me, shan't I seize
 my Treasure where I find it?— Con-
 cluding with a close imbrace,— Go,
 ye are an unkind naughty man, said
 she—— and I wont love—— you indeed——
 if— you offer—— Sighing, and gently
 striving to defend, what she had rather
 have dyed then keep—— What, oh
 powerful opportunity! may not be ef-
 fected by thy assistance? How sweet a re-
 compence did the mistaken *Alcidalis*
 think he had, for all his pains! and
 what a full revenge on Fortune for
 her Jilting Tricks, while he lay dying
 in the Arms of his supposed Deity!——
 But oh the shortness, and uncertainty
 of humane felicity! Who would not
 think

90 ZELINDA, a Romance.

think the tired Duke now taking large Arrears of sleep, for his last nights Disturbance! Who would believe, he should so soon a second time molest these Lovers! Yet so it was; for in the height of all their Bliss, *Florella* almost Breathless with her haste, rushed in; casting back such frightfull Looks, as if some ghastly Phantasm had pursued her; and by the Blazing light of a great Wax Taper which she brought, discovered to the surpris'd *Alcidalis*, the false *Zelinda*; and e're he could discharge his Senses, from the Amazement that object rais'd, she increased it by crying out, *The Duke! The Duke was privately returned, and just entered the Palace*: which truth their ears immediately confirmed, by the hasty Footsteps which they heard.—— The Dutcheß, Pale and Trembling, had not power to speak, but with up-listed Hands and Eyes, seem'd to implore the assistance of *Alcidalis*; while *Florella*, whose Senses were more at liberty, threw a loose Robe and Head-Tyre of the Dutcheßes on *Alcidalis*, hiding
his

ZELINDA, a Romance. 91

his Face as much as the Dress would permit. Scarce was this done, when the Duke entered, clasped him in his Arms, and spake the kindest things a doting Husband could invent, to oblige the best Wife in the World: To which he dar'd make no reply; but *Florella* freed him from that trouble, telling the Duke, a suddain Tooth-ach, got by a cold she took the preceeding night, made speaking extreamly troublesome; and swelled her Face so, she dared not expose it to the Air, lest it increased her Malady. *Alcidalis* took the hint, and began to Groan so Lamentably, it put his Grace into such mortal apprehensions of her danger, that it was hard to judge who was in the greatest perplexity, He, the Prince, or the Dutcheß, who lay quaking under the Bed-Cloathes, like a Child frighted with the Tale of Raw head and bloody Bones. Death was the least punishment the Lovers could expect, if they were discovered. A hundred times did *Alcidalis* resolve to force his Passage over the Dukes feeble Body: But the consideration of the Dut-

92 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Dutcheſſes danger, as a Woman in diſtreſs, though her impoſture had much incenſed him, diverted all thoſe thoughts to a Generous reſolution of freeing her, or ſharing in her deſtiny. Thus Affairs ſtood, when Fortune ſeemed weary of tormenting them, and gave ſome proſpect of hope, for the Uxorious Duke would himſelf be the Meſſenger to call the Phyſitians; which gave all hopes of ſetting things right ere he returned; but their Joy vaniſhed like a ſwift reflection of the Sun caſt from a moving Looking-Glaſſe; for the blind Quean, whoſe ſole delight conſiſts in Tantalizing thoſe that truſt her, thruſt them the next Minuit on the very brink of Ruine. The Duke unable to leave his Dear *Zelinda* without a Kiſs, found a ſtrange unuſual Roughneſs on his Chin, and ſurpriſed with a ſudden fit of Jealouſie, ſurveying him the ſame inſtant from Head to Foot, imagined his dimenſions fix times as big as his *Zelinda's* (for Paſſion blinds the Underſtanding, as ſome Diſeaſes cheat the Sight) and rending off the Head-Dreſs,

ſaw

saw not only a man, but his Slave *Clarantes*, whose extraordinary valour had made him worthy of his particular knowledge.—Immediately running out, with loud Exclamations of Treason, Treason! the Guard repaired to his aid; when his back was turned, you may think *Aleidalis* was not idle, but casting off that fatal Robe, with a bravery of Spirit which never forsook him, he prepared, though unarmed, to dispute his Life. But ere he went, turning to the Dutchess who was almost drowned in Tears, ‘Madam, (*says he*) if extravagancy of Passion, had not wholly seized my Reason with my Senses, your Deportment, so contrary to her strict and spotless Virtue, had assured me you were not the incomparable *Zelinda*; but if you give me not some account of that excellent Princess, by all the Gods I swear! to unvail your imposture, and expose you to the just Cruelty of the deluded Duke, though my death accompany your Infamy. — Ah Sir, (*said the deplorable Dutchess*) can you with such extream rigour pay

94 ZELINDA, a Romance.

'pay my excels of Love? ingrateful
 'man! the too happy *Zelinda* (since
 'so esteemed by you) lives in the Isle
 'of *Sardignia* ; it was to save her life,
 'I consented to become a Dutcheſs—
 ' 'Tis not, Cruel Prince ! to the care of
 'my own ſafety you owe for this diſ-
 'covery , for with your ſelf , you take
 'from me all deſire to live: But to
 'preserve your Life , (notwithſtanding
 'all your unkind contempt) ten
 'thouſand times dearer to me then my
 'own. I once more tell you, your
 'too happy *Zelinda* lives yet in *Sardig-*
 '*nia* ; in obedience to her own deſire,
 'attended thither by my Father.
 'Shortneſs of time forbids to tell you
 'more: Now leave me to the ſeveri-
 'ty of an incenſed Jealous Husband ;
 'but when you think of my ſailing,
 'remember the Cauſe , and pity me.
 — Here the noiſe of the Dukes re-
 turn ſtayed her Speech. *Alcidalis* had
 dyed in her defence, ſo graceful, and
 ſo moving was her grief, but hopes
 of ſeeing the true *Zelinda* baniſhed all
 other ſentiments. With Courage,
 even to raſhneſs, he caſt himſelf amidſt
 the

ZELINDA, a Romance. 95

the Guard, and got safely off; for their too much haste, (the Mortal enemy of most designs) brought the Guard with so little light, that in the Confusion it was not difficult to pass without being discerned. The enraged Duke entering, found his Dutcheſs standing in that very Dress and Poſture he left *Clariantes*, only the Head-Tyre he had diſordered, was again put on, and by the advice of *Florella* (who was old excellent at sudden Shifts) she was ſo placed. Strait he cryes out to his Guard, *There! There behold the audacious Traytor! take him, ſeize him, away with him to Tortures; let him be 100 Years dying.* The Guard ſeeing none but the Dutcheſs, like Statues ſtood without motion; The Duke ſtormed, Vowed all were in the Plot, & ſhould dye together; but firſt that Villain *Clariantes*: And running at the Dutcheſs with his Drawn Sword, had certainly killed her, if *Florella's* ſhrick at his firſt motion, had not made her ſtart aſide. Yet ſhe eſcaped not without a Wound in her Side, which together with her fright, caſt her on the
the

99 ZELINDA, a Romance.

the Bed in a swoon : and by the falling off of her Head-Tyre, shewed the Duke what he had done. — He did not (as some would expect) search round the Chamber, and the Palace for *Clarindantes*, but wholly submitted to his uxorious Love ; which like an impetuous Tyde, bare down his Anger, Faith, and Reason ; seeing his dear Dutchess Bleeding, and as he thought breathing out her Soul by his accursed hand, he threw himself at her Feet, beat his Head against the Ground, tore his Hair, and rooted up his Comely Beard. (hold ! let me not lye neither, perhaps Beards were as much out of Fashion then, as now, and consequently he wore none ; I would not have Posterity imposed upon in matters of such weight ; truth will go through the World.) But I am sure he called himself a thousand thick sculled Ophes, Jealous Cox-combs, Villains, Murtherers, and turning to his Guard, begged them to Dispatch him, for he was a Tyrant, not worthy to live but among Beasts ; from intreaties he proceeded to commands,

an

And threats; but seeing them reverse
 their Faces, and hang their Heads at
 his strange Proposition. *Why*, said he,
will you be cruel to your Prince? and
deny him the only favour he ever begged
from you, or that you can grant? I have
most inhumanely pierced my own Soul,
what safety can you hope from me? My
dear hearts blood stains the Floor, and I can
gaze upon't without dying; can you expect
Justice from such a Monster? Gods! Why
do I descend to Petition so poorly, for
what is in my power. Ob my Zelinda!
the Blossoms that enriched the early
Spring, and with their fragrant Scent
perfum'd the gentle Southern Wind, were
not so sweet, nor half so Beautiful as
thee: 'twould undoe the vast Universe to
purchase so rich a Jewel as I have rash-
ly thrown away—— What can my
swollen Carkasse, this dull Clod of earth
do in the World, when my Sun that gave
me warmth, and life, lyes here Eclipsed?
Fool! Fool! Fool! that I am—— Then
he cast himself again on her Body, and
was striving in vain to find some signs of
life, cryed out, Zelinda! Zelinda! She's
gone;—— for ever, for ever gone.—— if

88 ZELINDA, a Romance.

thy injured soul is yet hovering in the ambient Air, as sure it is loth to go far from so rich, so beautiful a Cabinet, let it behold the Sacrifice I offer for its Peace.—— Starting up, he endeavoured to cast himself on his Sword, but was prevented, & by the Physicians and Chyrurgeons who were then arrived, the Dutcheſs was recovered from her swoon: and her life assured, if no new accident prevented their care.—— The Duke begged a thousand pardons for his folly, and stirred not from her Bed till she was Cured;—— binding himself with many vows, never to be Jealous again; nor did I ever hear of any farther difference between them; therefore I will leave them with the same farewell people: give their departed Friend, who dyed with a Lord have mercy upon me in his Mouth, (though he lived impiously) doubtless they are Happy.——

Oh Woman! Woman! thou dark abyſſe of Subtiley; 'tis easier to trace a wandring Swallow through the pathless Air, then to explicate the crafty

ZELINDA, a Romance. 99

crafty wyndings of thy Love, or Malice: Thy swift excuses, and evasions, still like the *Hydra's* Heads increase: As Wizzards, in a moment y're transformed to various Shapes; and when the injur'd Friend, or Husband, thinks to crush a Serpent that has poisoned all his Health and Peace, strait in the form of a Dove-like innocence you Baffle and Betray his justest Rage. Angels would emulate the perfect Glory, and the Blest estate of man, were he not subject to the subtil Snares of your frail deceiving Sex.

The Reader ought to pardon this Satyrick excursion to the Author, who, has been more Injured by Woman, than ~~the Duke of Alondalis~~ *the Duke of Alondalis* was. That Prince, it may be concluded, soon found his Gentleman which lay incognito receive his commands; and taking his Jewels, repaired immediately to the Sea-side, where a Ship being just ready to leave the Port, (for that must never be wanting to a *Hero* upon the Ramble) without asking whither she was

100 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Bound, they went Aboard, and soon lost sight of that unfortunate Coast. With a prosperous Wind let them proceed, while we return to the distressed real *Zelinda*, whom we unkindly left in mans Habit, under the name of *Zelidan*, in a strange place, *Barba* in *Africa*. By the favourable assistance of that same generous Pyrate *Orcantes*, that gave her liberty, she obtained a Passage for *Spain*; and without meeting any extraordinary adventure, safely landed at the same Port of *Barcelona*, from whence she had been forced away by the contriving Jealous Queen. — The sight of that Fatal place, presenting all past Fortune freshly to her Memory, oppressed her Breast with Sighs; which Tempest was allay'd by a shower of Chrystal drops from her fair Eyes; *Alcidalis*, said she, if you do still preserve your vowed affection for the faithful *Zelinda*; what reason will she have to glory in her sufferings? Here she paused a while, pleasing her self (with that delightful thought; but on a sudden breaking silence, she went

ZELINDA, a Romance: 101

On; ——— No ! wretched Zelinda, no !
 never hope such Blessings were ordained
 for thee ; doubtless the Authority of a
 King, and Father, managed by the in-
 sinuating artifice of the Prudent design-
 ing Queen, the interest of State, and
 the Beauties of the too charming Princess,
 to which adde his belief of my being Mar-
 ried to the Prince of Tarentum, have
 prevailed, and he is now for ever chain-
 ed to the imbrace of that fortunate
 Princess. ——— Die ! die Zelinda ! let
 not the imperious Queen insult ore
 thy Distress. Already was her hand
 upon her Sword, when Heaven, that
 never quite forsakes the Virtuous, in-
 spired her with more reasonable
 thoughts ——— That death was the
 extremest refuge of the miserable ;
 and might safely be deferred as a re-
 medy always in her power, since no
 earthly Tyranny could compel the
 Wretched to live longer then they
 pleased, if they had courage enough
 to die. ——— She pleased her self
 with the fancy, that to die in his sight
 which she vowed if he were false to
 her) would extract remorse, and

101 ZELINDA, a Romance.

pity from him; so much does Love misguide the Judgement of the most prudent, that even in death they cheat themselves with vain hopes of a future satisfaction they can never be sensible of. — In this humour she posted towards *Saracusa*, but near the Gates was stopped by a great press of people? some driving Beasts of Carriage, laden with variety of Goods; others carrying on their backs, those whom Infancy or Age rendred incapable to assist themselves; as if they fled from the fury of some Foreign Invader, or from the merciless rage of a devouring flame. Loud Sighs, and doleful Groans, were all the answer she could gain to her enquiry of the cause; long use of Arms, and Virile exercise, had added much to her courage, in which she naturally outstriped her Sex: That (with a determined purpose to behold the reason of this Consternation) carried her through the smoking bloody Streets; which were strewed with dead and mangled Bodies (the sad marks of a Civil War) Strait to the Pallace, amidst a thousand Sword

ZELINDA, a Romance. 193

Swords, and other Instruments of Death.—— There she beheld the Gates shut, and the Queen and Princess out of a large Window, with begging Eyes, Hands, and Voices, in vain striving to infuse compassion into the enraged Rabble, who roared incessantly, *Give us our King! restore us our Prince! down with the Murderers* Zelidan not knowing the occasion of their Mutiny, nor enquiring now, but led by a generous principle of assisting the distressed, made her way through the Croud, beckoning with her hands (for their noise made all speech useless) for silence, and liberty to passe; having attained to their Front, she faced them; and turning up her Beaver, shewed them a Countenance which never failed of gaining a respect from the most Barbarous: The Grandeur of her Meen, and the Majestick sweetness of her Eyes, soon converted their confused Bauling to a silent admiration: which she, whose greatness of Spirit was ever present in the extremest danger, strait improved to the advancement of her de-

104 ZELINDA, a Romance.

signe, the relief of the besieged Queen and Princess. Bowing her body then, with a charming resistless Grace peculiar only to her self, thus she harangu'd them. ———

‘Valiant Souldiers ! and most
 ‘worthy Citizens ! whose Valour
 ‘and unquestioned Loyalty have still
 ‘been the support and glory of your
 ‘own, as well as the envy of all neigh-
 ‘bouring Princes ; whose free born
 ‘hearts with joy submit to all de-
 ‘crees that bear the stamp of unbribed
 ‘Justice ; why are those shining
 ‘Weapons brandished now against
 ‘weak Women ? against your un-
 ‘doubted lawful Queen ? that used to
 ‘strike a Trembling horror in your
 ‘boldest Foes ? ——— Are you injur’d
 ‘in your Trade ? are your due Liberties
 ‘restrained ? ——— Behold your good ;
 ‘your gracious Queen, ready to offer,
 ‘nay intreat you to make your own
 ‘Conditions. Behold Majesty, in the
 ‘form of an humble suppliant ; have
 ‘you the hearts of men, and look on
 ‘this without being moved to duty
 ‘and submission ? ——— Had your
 Wives

ZELINDA, a Romance. 105

Wives and Daughters been ravished,
your Estates given for a prey to the
Insolent Souldier, had your Friends
been lawlessly Imprisoned, nay put
to cruel undeserved deaths, (all which
the great Gods forbid!) the desola-
tion of your City, and killing of each
other would be no recompence:
Look round about you, behold your
yet burning habitations, see how scat-
tered Limbs and torn Bodies pave
your Streets; look how the destruck-
ed people flye those Buildings which
the fire has spared, as if some deadly
Plague possess'd them, or the licen-
tious Sword of a Barbarous Foe were
at their backs.—— Will you con-
vert your stately Rooms to Graves?
your City to a Desert? and your
sacred Temples to noisome Dens for
Woolves? and base Receptacles for
Batts and Owls shrieking Harbingers
of Death?—— Go on! let every
neighbour hide his Treacherous Dag-
ger in his Friends heart, consume
each other bravely! and leave your
Wives and Children a miserable Prey
to the next Invader, that will vouch-

106 ZELINDA, a Romanecr.

safe to seize and drive them to perpetual Slavery.— I that am a stranger, cannot without Tears of Compassion foresee that desolation which you seek ; my heart bleeds, and an universal horror runs through all my Veins ;— if you are injured, my life shall be sacrificed to your satisfaction.—

‘ Methinks I see a noble Indignation in your eyes , and a true remorse in Blushes rise upon your Cheeks ; how generous, how becoming does it look ! Oh make haste to perfect your Repentance ; let not future Chronicles deliver to succeeding Ages, the *Saraensans* Swords were stained with the Slaughter of Poor, forsaken, helpless Women : But follow me to Safety, Wealth, and Honour : All that love their Liberty, their Countrys Peace , and the Honour of the great Gods , follow me !—— Then casting her self from her Horse, with her drawn Sword she began to lead them off. ——

When.

ZELINDA, a Romance. 107

When one, that sought his particular Advantage from the general Ruine; that had fomented the Rebellion, as some set Houses on fire, to Steal with more advantage and safety; cryed out, *Companions! Friends! and Brothers! whither are you going, like Beasts to the Sacrifice? And what is this bold impertinent Stranger that dares* — There Zelinda put a full stop to his Seditious Oration, and his Life together, by a thrust which pierced his heart: An Action which might have branded her with rashness, (so boldly to hazard the Fury of a yet discontented Multitude) but the Success justified its Prudence; (in such extreams no middle paths are safe) for without a murmur all the rest followed her, marching over his body she had killed, to the Market-place; where with another Speech, she sent them pacified to their several houses; — and by one of the most understanding, was informed, That the long absence and supposed loss of *Alcidalis*, and the late death of the King, were charged as Crimes upon the Ambitious Queen; and the Commonalty stirred.

108 ZELINDA, a Romance.

stirred up by some discontented Spirits, had sought revenge by force of Armes : which caused that dreadful noise and destruction which he so happily had stopped. Scarce was this information finished, when a Messenger from the Queen entreated, *That by his presence at the Court, he would assure that Life and Honour he had so generously repriev'd.* The joy Zelidan conceived to find the Prince absent, and as she believed constant to his Vows, (for the nimble faith of Lovers keeps equal pace with their wishes) obtained an easie Pardon for all other injuries, and hasten'd her to the service of the Queen: whom she found with the Princess her Daughter, and all the Train that distracted time would allow, ready to receive her in the first Court. The troubled thoughts that filled their Breasts at their meeting, darted through their trembling Eyes, and in unsettled colours spread themselves upon their Cheeks; though the causes were different, and a secret to all but themselves. - Zelidan (maugre all her goodness) could not see the fatal

ZELINDA, a Romance. 109

tal instrument of her sorrows; without some strange emotion in her heart; nor could the Queen behold *Zelidan*, (whose believed residence at *Tarentum*, and her disguise, secured *Zelinda* from the most prying eyes) notwithstanding her Prudence , and experienced conduct , without displaying to the strict observer , some symptoms of that passion which had newly seized her : For the little audacious God of Love , had hovered still round *Zelidan* , and while he appeased the mutinous Rabble , began a new and more dangerous insurrection in her Breast ; sending from every word and action of this charming Amazon , a Golden Arrow to her heart , which her present Dangers , nor the Grief for her yet scarce breathless Husband , could defend her from. But the constraint she imposed upon her self, in striving to conceal her Passion, exposed it more openly , especially to *Zelidan* , who marked it with much satisfaction : hoping from thence an opportunity of a full and innocent revenge. — In short, the amorous Queen received him

110 ZELINDA, a Romance.

him as a Messenger of Happiness from Heaven : *What recompence, (said she) Illustrious Stranger ! can we offer you, to whose miraculous Relief we owe our Lives, and all we have to give ? If the sacred powers could admit a Rival in their worship, our adoration to you were a just debt. Madam, answered the feigned Zelidan (bowing with a profound Reverence) to your own unequalled Virtues you owe your safety, and I the glory of my success ; had not my indulgent Stars sent me to your aid, the Gods had by some Miracle preserved in you the brightest Ornament of their Creation. (Many fine things were said on this occasion, for they were both excellent at reparties and rejoinders, but my treacherous memory has lost them : Besides, I believe the repetition would be as tedious to the Reader, as to my self ; therefore I'll on to the matter, which was thus.) Zelidan was treated with all the Magnificence and Honour, gratitude and love could invent : and failed not by her discreet conduct, to settle a perfect correspondence again between the Court and*

ZELINDA, a Romance. III

and City ; but her thoughts were still hankering after *Alcidalis* ; purposing after a little rest , and what light she could get by enquiry, to guide her on,— to search the World , till she found him.— The Queen gave every hour new marks of her Passion , and sought occasion of discovering it more plainly to *Zelidan* ; who by all returns his different Quality would permit, added Fewel to augment the Flame : And by the Sighs and Torments he observed her suffer , (for her great heart was loath to make the first address ; and he as positively determined , as he had good reason not to ease her by making the first Courtship) received some compensation for her former injurious treatment. The poor Princess was as unable to defend her self from the assault of this Victorious Amazon, as the Queen, and with deep-resentment observed her Mothers Passion. Thus did the feigned *Zelidan* revenge , what the true *Zelinda* had endured : Love and Jealousie , was the business of the Court ; and the Queens supposed Marriage with *Zelidan*.

112 ZELINDA, a Romance.

dan, the discourse of the City. For the blind fears, or unreasonable wishes of the inconsiderate Multitude, always anticipate the intentions of their Princes; transforming their very supposed thoughts into Acts, which receive their publick censure, or applause, e're they have Being. The Queen observing how carefully *Zelidan* declined all occasions of being attacked, resolved to push on her destiny, by a naked Declaration of her Love. In pursuance of her intention, having commanded her Attendants to convenient distance, while *Zelidan* was leading her in a walk of Oessamine, whose interwoven Branches made so thick a Shade, that the Sun in its Meridian strength and lustre could not pierce them; with the gentle pressings of his hand, reiterated Sighs, and speaking looks, having strove in vain, to prevent the shame of a plainer discovery, at last with broken interrupted Language, thus she spake; ———

Is it possible, that the owner of so many

ac-

ZELINDA, a Romance. 113

accomplishments as wait on the Illustrious Zelidan, should be insensible of that noble Passion, which is to others the very cause of all brave Actions, and the great reward at which they aim? has Love, that reigns o're all the World besides, no power in our Court? or is there no Object worthy of your Sighs? casting her eyes on those of Zelidan, which were fixed on the earth, she paused; and in a restless Agony waited his Answer: which he had just began, when a Gentleman, whose earnest business might well warrant his rude interruption of their Privacy, relieved him, by crying to the Queen, Save your self, Madam! Save your self by sudden Flight, the Rebellious Citizens are again in Arms, and Headed by a desperate Stranger, like an impetuous Torrent that has o'reflowed its Banks, are rolling to the Palace, overthrowing all opposition with their resistless Fury. Justice and Liberty is Ecchoed through the Streets, but Blood & Mischief is their aim. Ere his unwelcome Message was finished, the scattered Courtiers came thronging about the Queen, and Zelidan, like

frighted

114 ZELINDA, a Romance.

frighted Chickens seeking shelter from the ravenous Kite. He strait attended the Queen into the Pallace, assuring her by the way, *That his speedy victory or death, should evince the great desire he had to serve her.* And staying not for her answer, (which doubtless, would have been, *That if he had any respect to her safety, he should preserve it in that of his own; for her fate was so inseparably linked to his, that she could not survive his death; or some such obliging thing.*) snatched what Arms he soonest found, and ran to the Palace Gate, followed by a small, but resolute Company of faithful Servants to the Queen. The Princess, who till then had smothered her Passion for *Zelidan* in the narrow limits of her Breast, despairing of success against a Rival, which Duty forbid her to oppose; and seeing what she prized dearer than her soul, hasting to apparent death; took a Sword from the nearest Attendant, and followed *Zelidan*, hoping some Fatal Blow would in his sight end her hopeless Passion, with her life. The brave Stranger
(for

ZELINDA; a ROMANCE. 115

(for so his Acts declared him) that led on the Citizens, conquered all opposition; till *Zelidan's* arrival put a cheque to his growing victory. With an undaunted Meen she met him, and by her resolute Action, gave proof of a Courage far above her strength; but the invincible *Alcidalis* (for he it was) who had before conquered her in her own Province of Love, found but small danger from her Arms. He received her first charge on his Shield, and by several marks taking her for *Zelidan* the famous Stranger, and as he thought pretender to his Crown; cry'd out, *If thou wilt be a King, go Reign among the Shades! and boast thou dyedst by the hand of Alcidalis.* At the beloved name of *Alcidalis*, *Zelidan* endeavour'd to retreat, and discover her self; but in vain, for with such fierce Blows he pursued his Speech, that she fell Breathless at his Feet. The unhappy amorous Princess, striving with her feeble Arms to defend the fallen *Zelidan*; notwithstanding all *Alcidalis* could do to preserve her, fell a deplorable Sacrifice to the incense

116 ZELINDA, a Romance.

censed Rabble, and dyed imbracing of *Zelidan*. The Queen, who from a Window beheld all this Action, at first lamented not the death of her Daughter; but considering her as a Rival, Sacrificed all sentiments of Nature to the satisfaction of her jealousy. But seeing her beloved *Zelidan* Bleeding on the ground, extremity of Grief made her so insensible of all other considerations, that she was about to precipitate her self from the Window: But hope, which is the last thing that leaves the unfortunate, made her still think it not impossible to recover him. She was running out to that purpose, when *Alcidalis*, now a compleat Victor, was entering the Pallace: with all the submission of a Pious Son, he met her; and declared, *He would take all for Enemies, that failed to render her the Honour due to the Widow, and Mother of their King.* Without staying, or answering him at all; but with an upbraiding look, (where Rage and Compassion strove for Superiority) which seemed to call him a thousand Cruel Murthe-
rers,

ZELINDA, a Romance. 117

reres; she abandoned her self wholly to the impulse of her Passion, and casting her body on those of *Zelidan* and the Princess her Daughter, she divided her Kisses and Lamentations between them: 'Till excessive sorrow, like a Tyrannical Usurper, seized and oppressed all her Vitals: By its sad weight reducing her to a state as deplorable, and void of life, as theirs whom she grieved for. Never had Love and Grief a greater Sacrifice then here, nor misery more powerful Arguments to gain compassion from the most obdurate hearts: (here is a large Field for the Author to expatiate on the vicissitude of humane things; but the Gentle Reader would think him very inhumane, nay in my Conscience accessory to their Murthers, if he suffered three of the most Illustrious Persons in the World, to lye neglected on the ground, and dye for want of careful attendance, while he was shewing his Common-place Wit; therefore he hastens to their relief, with resolution to save them all if he can;) *Alcidalis* took the Queen in his Arms,

118 ZELINDA, a Romance.

Arms, while others performed the same service to the Princess and *Zelidan*; conveying them to their several apartments; the uncertain Multitude, that some few Minutes before breathed nothing but death and damnation against them; now followed them Houling and Groaning. All the Arts and strength of Physick were diligently applyed, which restored some weak symptoms of life in *Zelidan*; and those were carefully Cherished; but the unfortunate Princess was irrevocably dead. The Queens Swooning being only the effect of a vehement surprizing Passion, death soon was beaten off, and his pale spreading Ensigns rustled up by her returning Senses: But life came accompanied with all those killing Grievs that waited on its exile, which like the envied Favourites of some weak unhappy Prince (for sorrows soon insinuate themselves into the hearts affection) raised new Commotions among the souls discontented faculties, and the oppressed Senses, (those necessary Subjects and support of Life) which were like

ZELINDA, a Romance. 119

like to prove as fatal as the former; had not the News of *Zelidan's* hopeful Recovery repressed their Violence, by the removal of the cause.—— Weak as she was, she caused herself to be removed to his apartment.—— But, Gods! what a universal amazement seized the Queen, and all the Attendants, to find their Champion was a Woman? For so her swelling Breasts declared, which by undressing her, the better to apply their necessary aid, were discovered. Her Senses in a little time, were perfectly restored; and 'twas difficult for the most curious observer to determine, whether the Queen or *Zelinda* (for so we must call her, now shes discovered) was in the greatest confusion; after they had a long time gazed upon each other, the Queen finding in the transformed *Zelidan*, the well known Beauty and Meen of the persecuted *Zelinda*; lifting her eyes to Heaven cried out; I yeild to just Gods, I yeild to my inexorable destiny! *Ab Zelinda! thy injuries have been too well revenged.*—— Having said this, e'r *Zelinda* could answer, she retired

II ZELINDA, a Romance.

tired. Love being now wholly extinct, Nature resumed her power, and carried her to the apartment of the Princess, where with such moving passion she deplored her loss, that the most insensible were forced to sympathize with her. The News of *Zelidans* Transformation, flew straight through the Pallace, and the extraordinariness of the change, raised a Curiosity in *Alcidalis* to behold her, for he had not heard that it was *Zelinda*. The Messengerr he sent to obtain that liberty, entered her Chamber, just as one was going from her to entreat the favour which he sought. The Prince full of shame for his Victory over a Woman, hastened to beg her pardon; When he entered, his Attendants respectively withdrew to the furthest part of the Room. Neither the Paleness her loss of Blood had planted on her Cheeks, nor their long separation, could hinder the discovery of the true *Zelinda* at first sight: — So perfectly had love engraven her Image in his heart. What Pen can describe the Violence of their different Passions which

ZELINDA, a Romance. 121

which then Tyrannized in this Princes Breast? Shame and grief for wounding her he prized above his Life, and joy that she survived, and was in a place where he was now sole Master, and able to give and receive the highest proofs of a mutual, unalterable Love, (like meeting Tydes, whose opposed forces change swift running Streams a while into a fixed Calme) reduced him to a state of insensibility: — Without Speech or motion, he beheld her. Such extasies are the usual effects of sudden Joys or Grief; the heart being surprized, and oppressed with unexpected Events, all the Vital Spirits croud so fast to its assistance, that they often cause that ruine Nature sends them to prevent. As some, whose Animal Spirits are obstructed, and as it were smothered by the indigested Vapours, which from the Stomach fume into the Brain, and a while deprive them of the benefits of Life, (as interposing Clouds obscure the Suns lustre.) retain their Senses, but want power to imploy them; such the present State of *Alcidolis* was,

G

he

122 ZELINDA, a Romance.

he knew what he ought to speak, and act, but the greatness of his Love, and violence of his desires, took from him all ability of utterance; till *Zelinda*, whose condition much resembled his, fearing his silence proceeded from some change in his affection, thus began. —

‘Is this the kind reception *Alcidalis* gives the unfortunate *Zelinda*? do all the dangers I have past, and all my constant Love, merit this cold return? Great Gods! have you preserved me from so many various Deaths, to perish here? here in the only Haven, where I had deposited my last hopes of assured safety? Oh *Alcidalis*! let thy Sword give me speedy and more welcome death than thy disdain! —

Here casting himself on the Bed, and embracing her, he could get out no more but, *Oh my dearest Zelinda!* and then was relapsing again into his former extasies; which overcoming, with much difficulty he proceeded. —

‘You

ZELINDA, a Romance. 123

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that
'Your safety and your love (my ador-
ed *Zelinda*!) are blessings too great
to be received at once, with less
concern: Since your loss, in blindness
to all other objects of delight, I have
wandred ore the World; pardon me, if
I could not meet the first appearance of
my Glorious Sun, without amazement.
'Give me, ye Divine Powers! pro-
portioned strength to bear my Happi-
ness, lest like a starving man, while
I too greedily receive it, that hastens
my death which only can restore my
fainting life.——

'Then do you yet love me? (cried
the overjoyed Princess;) and will
the King, keep those vowes which
Alcidalis made to the then Happy *Ze-
linda*?——

'For ever! for ever! (answered the
transported *Alcidalis*) the enjoyment
of my adored *Zelinda*, is more then
ten thousand Empires.——

'Ah Sir, (said she) but interest of
State.——

You G 2 'State!

124 ZELINDA, a Romance.

'State! (cryed *Alcidalis*) my Ze-
 'linda is all all to me, I would not
 'thank the Gods for a Crown, but to
 'lay it at her Feet. Then turning to
 the Attendants which had now filled
 the Room, (impatience of beholding
 their long lost Prince, bringing them
 thither from all parts) raising his
 voice, he cryed out: 'He is a Traytor,
 'and the Mortal Enemy of *Alcidalis*,
 'that will not kneel and Petition the
 'excellent *Zelinda* to be his Queen;
 'whose Beauty and Virtues, merit the
 'Empire of the Universe. The Gods
 '(to whom I pay all reverence) shall
 'never, but by death, Divorce me from
 'thy Arms.— Were I Racked to ten
 'thousand peices, as every part of a
 'broken Mirrour presents an entire
 'face, in every part of *Alcidalis*, would
 'appear the bright Image of my adored
 'Zelinda.

Then they renewed their Embraces
 and mutual Vows; asking and an-
 swering twenty several Questions
 at once. She related all her Adventures
 from her departure from *Barcelona*

125 ZELINDA, a Romance.

till that instant: which *Alcidalis* requited with his Story, how he sought her in *Italy*, (but omitted his intrigue with the Dutchess of *Tarentum*) and at *Sardignia*, where meeting the News of his Fathers death, the preservation of his Crown hastened him to *Spain*; But with a resolute determination to imploy all his new power, in search of *Zelinda*: How, near *Saracusa*, by some faithful Nobility to whom he made himself known, and who received him with marks of unexpressible satisfaction, he was informed of the Actions of *Zelidan*, his interest with the Queen, and his supposed design of Marrying her, and usurping the Crown. This gave Honour a while the preheminnence of Love, and led him in the Head of those Friends the shortness of the time could get together, to this mistaken Revenge, and real Happiness. —

The Queen; notwithstanding all the submissive importunity of *Alcidalis*, and all the assurances of Power and

126 **ZELINDA, a Romance.**

HONOUR he could give her, would not be diverted from a resolution she had made, of retiring to a Religious House, there to pass the remainder of her now hated life.

After the Funeral of the Princess her Daughter was with all Ceremonious, Pomp celebrated she performed her Vow, and was accompanied to the place of her retirement, with a Magnificence becoming that Solemn occasion.

To that solemnity immediately succeeded the Coronation, and Marriage of *Alcidalis* and *Zelinda*.

The day with all imaginable Circumstances of an universal joy was finished.

After which, Gentle Reader! (I may safely call you so now, for I am sure you are tyr'd as well as I) you may suppose the long-wished night are riv'd, though very lazily in the Opinion of the King and Queen: And you may

ZELINDA, a Romance. 127

may suppose their impatient Love hastened them to Bed; And what followed, you may suppose too, if you please; for I have more Civility then to speak what I think: but as the most Ingenious Sir *John Suckling* said.

*What is this, who can tell?
But I believe it was no more,
Then thou and I have done before.
With Bridget and with Nell.*

I have naturally so much kindness for Lovers, that I will without further disturbance leave them to their private Banquet; and if no other Pen raises them, they shall lye there till Doomsday.

F I N I S.

1871
The first of the year
was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also
very dry and the
crops were very
poor.

The second of the year
was a very wet one
and the crops were
very good. The
winter was also
very wet and the
crops were very
good.

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was a very dry one
and the crops were
very poor. The
winter was also
very dry and the
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poor.

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